



The Presby Record

A community beacon of faith, love and hope.

Volume LV Issue 4

April 2025

A Song for Lent

Palm Sunday:

Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, with crowds lining the road with tree branches and shouting his praises. Less than a week later, the crowds will turn against him, leading to his execution. Many Christians mark this day with processions, often singing a hymn by Theodulph, the ninth-century Bishop of Orléans. Theodulph wrote the hymn while unjustly imprisoned by King Louis the Pious. According to legend, as Theodulph sang this hymn in his cell, the king heard it during the Palm Sunday procession and was so moved that he released him, though he died soon after. Other accounts suggest Theodulph died in prison, possibly from poisoning. The 1854 translation by John Mason Neale is the most familiar to English-speaking worshippers.

St. Theodulph of Orleans (760–821)

All Glory, Laud and Honor

Refrain

All glory, laud and honor,
To Thee, Redeemer, King,
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.

Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's Name comest,
The King and Bless'd One.

Refrain

The company of angels
Are praising Thee on High,
And we, with all creation,
In chorus make reply.

Refrain

The people of the Hebrews
With palms before Thee went;
Our prayer and praise and anthems
Before Thee we present.

Refrain

To Thee, before Thy passion,
They sang their hymns of praise;
To Thee, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise.

Refrain

Thou didst accept their praises;
Accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest,
Thou good and gracious King.

Refrain

Good Friday:

During Passover in Jerusalem, it was customary for the government to free one prisoner. Following Jesus's arrest, Pontius Pilate offered the crowd a choice between Jesus and Barabbas, but they chose to free Barabbas and demanded Jesus's crucifixion, despite Pilate stating Jesus was innocent.

This betrayal is reenacted by some churches during Holy Week as a reminder of their role in Jesus's passion. Andrew Hudgins suggests that each person contains elements of Pilate, the tormenting crowd, and Jesus.

Ecce Homo

ANDREW HUDGINS

Christ bends, protects his groin. Thorns
gouge
his forehead, and his legs
are stippled with dried blood. The part of us
that's Pilate says, Behold the man.
We glare at that bound, lashed,
and bloody part of us that's Christ. We
laugh, we howl,
we shout. Give us Barabbas,
not knowing who Barabbas is, not caring.
A thief? We'll take him anyway. A drunk?
A murderer? Who cares? It's better him
Than this pale ravaged thing, this god.
Bosch knows.
His humans waver, laugh, then change to
demons
as if they're seized by epilepsy. It spreads
from eye to eye, from laugh to laugh until,
incited by the ease of going mad,
they go. How easy evil is! Dark voices sing,
You can be evil or you can be good,
but good is dull, my darling, good is dull.
And we're convinced: How lovely evil is!
How lovely hell must be! Give us
Barabbas!

Lord Pilate clears his throat and tries again:
I find no fault in this just man.
It's more than we can bear. In gothic script
our answer floats above our upturned eyes.
O crucify, we sing. O crucify him!

Easter Sunday :

Edmund Spenser celebrates the glory of the Resurrection in this famous sonnet. In Spenser's explanation of Easter, Jesus through his sacrifice rescues both the dead and the living from captivity in sin into everlasting life; through the Harrowing of Hell, dead sinners are released to Heaven, and through Christ's blood, living sinners are washed clean. In the poem's conclusion, we are reminded that the love Jesus showed for humanity is the love we must show one another.

Edmund Spenser

Easter

MOST glorious Lord of Lyfe! that, on this day,
Didst make Thy triumph over death and sin;
And, having harrowd hell, didst bring away
Captivity thence captive, us to win:
This joyous day, deare Lord, with joy begin;
And grant that we, for whom thou diddest dye,
Being with Thy deare blood clene washt from sin,
May live for ever in felicity!

And that Thy love we weighing worthily,
May likewise love Thee for the same againe;
And for Thy sake, that all lyke deare didst buy,
With love may one another entertayne!
So let us love, deare Love, lyke as we ought,
—Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

Easter Monday:

Resurrection Before reading the poem below, turn the book sideways and look at the image formed by the lines of the poems. This is a visual as well as a verbal poem; Herbert wrote it to appear as a pair of wings, thus emphasizing the same theme found in the words themselves. In each "wing," the first stanza describes a downward journey – humans descend from the Garden of Eden into an impoverished state, and from innocence into sin – a journey that the second half of the "wing" reverses, allowing the speaker to soar "with Thee." The poem's title makes clear that these are wings of new life, of Christ's – and thereby the sinner's – resurrection from sin and death.

Easter Wings

By George Herbert

Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,
Though foolishly he lost the same,
Decaying more and more,
Till he became
Most poore:
With thee
O let me rise
As larks, harmoniously,
And sing this day thy victories:
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.

My tender age in sorrow did beginne
And still with sicknesses and shame.
Thou didst so punish sinne,
That I became
Most thinne.
With thee
Let me combine,
And feel thy victorie:
For, if I imp my wing on thine,
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.

Communion Servers

April 6 – Valerie Wade – Set up
Dave Harvey – Serve
Buck Ivey - Serve

April 17th - Dave Harvey - Setup
Kristi Sutphin - Serve
Kathleen Jordan - Serve

April 20th - Kristi Sutphin- Set up
Kathleen Jordan - Serve
Adam Greathouse - Serve

Liturgists

April 6th - Kathy Maddy
April 13th - Adam Greathouse
April 20th (Easter) - Buck Ivey
April 27th - Kathy Maddy

In Care Facilities:

Ann McCormick, Apt.106, English Meadows,
5 Bexley Dr, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Sadie Ashworth, 5 Rolling Meadows Dr., Room 118,
Scott Depot, WV 25560

Cel Jones, Meadowbrook Acres Rehab, Room A-
13, 2149 Greenbrier Street, Charleston, WV 25311
Phone 304 344-4268

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Concerns – Congregation Members:

Mike Clark	Mike Merguc, Home
Mark Curtis	Alex Dayfield
Sara Kell	

Prayer Concerns - Family and Friends

Ashley Nestman, Lymphoma (Connie Ivey)
Kathi Curtis' mother, Shirley Ware, Florida
Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Parkinson's (Kathryn Maddy)
William Wallace (Traletta Wallace's son) kidney
Roger Schomburg (Kathryn Maddy's uncle)
Victoria Reynolds (Wanda Bowman)
Joshua Higgins (Ron & Sharon Peterson's nephew)
Jeff Maddy (Kathryn Maddy's husband)
Michael Murphy (Mark Boyd's friend) cancer
returned
Eloise Waugh, Florida
Clyde Ellis (Valerie Wade's high school classmate)
Bruce Kessler (recovering from surgery)

Harry Speidel (Connie Ivey's brother)
Debbie Speidel, broken shoulder (Connie's sister-
in-law)
Darrin Grass, stomach cancer (Laurie Turley)
Mary Jo Swartz
Flo Rogers (Jack's wife) recovering from surgery
Kathy Leftwich's friend and former colleague's
husband is in critical condition in the ICU (Iowa)
with pneumonia and a variety of other serious
health issues.
Journey, two year old daughter of Dustin and Jess
Combs, Anticipating Surgery
Jennifer Ray, high risk pregnancy (Donna's cousin)
Jason Haught, complications from spinal surgery
(Vickie Haught's son, Jack Rogers' nephew)
Brett and Linda Foster, glioblastoma (Laurie's nephew
and his wife)

Military

Captain Allie Curtis, US. Army (United States) **Hunter
Parsons** U.S. Navy (Virginia)
Mickey Swartz, Aircrew Flight Equipment
Technician, U.S. Air Force (Eugene, Oregon) **Lieutenant
Jack Wiles**, U.S. Air Force

April Birthdays

4 – Matthew Duvall
6 – Elly Denzie
7 – Paige Ennis
11 – Jon Dunlap
14 – Patricia Mullins
17 – Tori Capehart, Lew Baxter
18 – Jarrell Mullins, Abby Cox
19 – Bob Sutphin
20 – Tony Allevato
23 - Michael Merguc (young Michael)
28 – Carolyn Reed
30 – Gabe Mullins, Wendy Harvey

Happy Anniversary

Jon and Melinda Cox - April 7, 1990



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to: nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, support the mission of the church worldwide, work for justice and peace, and build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Women's Lunch Gathering

We plan to meet at Shuckers for fellowship lunch again on Friday, April 14 at 11:45 am. Everyone is welcome to join the fun.

Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation

The 2024–2025 Horizons Bible study
by author Patricia K. Tull

Presbyterian Women meet each month, September through May, on the second Tuesday and Wednesday for Bible study and fellowship. This year's study is a call to care for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts.

This month we reflect on the epic story of creation, Israel's beginning, and Israel's abrupt ending in the last chapters of 2 Kings. With a focus on intergenerational justice, we will look at our generation's place in history. We are caught between the past and the future, but we have the power to change what will be. We are writing our descendants history everyday. How will we write a better future?

Everyone is welcome to join the study either on zoom or in person, whether you read the lesson or not.

Daytime Circle meets Wednesday, April 9 at 12:00 noon for in person for table fellowship. Bring your own brown bag lunch. At 12:35 pm we begin the Bible study and conclude promptly at 1:30 pm.

Evening Zoom Circle meets on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 pm. The zoom will open at 6:45 for early birds to fellowship.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85861031680?pwd=Nw4SR3Clr969qxLdwY9avWaru3wiai.1>

Meeting ID: 858 6103 1680
Passcode: 406332



I WANT TO THINK AGAIN
OF DANGEROUS
AND NOBLE THINGS.

I WANT TO BE LIGHT
AND FROLIC SOME.

I WANT TO BE IMPROBABLE
AND BEAUTIFUL

AND AFRAID OF NOTHING

AS THOUGH I HAD WINGS.

+ MARY OLIVER

The youth group is seeking support to collect feminine hygiene products for donation to CASA through Presbyterian Women. Access to these products is critical for health and dignity, yet many face barriers in obtaining them. Donations of sanitary pads, tampons, and similar items are needed. Your support will make a significant difference in our community. Thank you for your generosity.

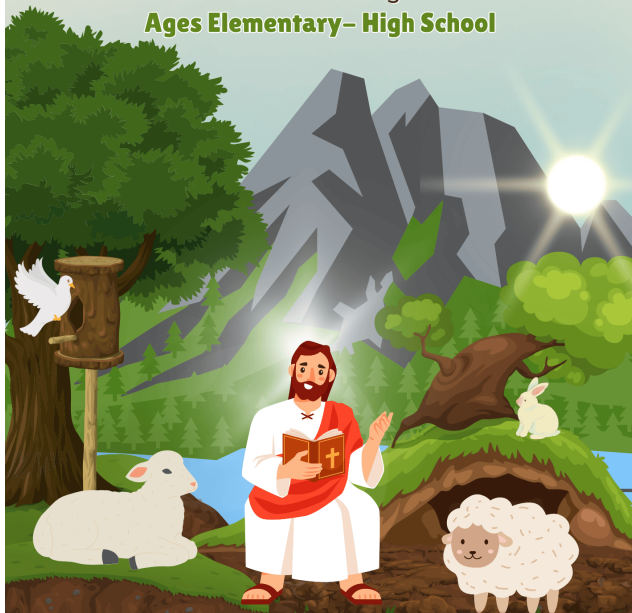


Join our youth-led Lent charity project by donating food! Our wish list is available in the office to see what we need. Your help will bring hope and support to those in need. Let's make this Lent a time of giving!

**Lent Program every Wednesday from
March 12th – April 16th at 6:30!**

Join us this Lent for a fun and meaningful journey filled with engaging stories, creative crafts, and activities that teach the spirit of the season, including valuable lessons from Jesus's parables that inspire us to live with compassion and understanding.

Ages Elementary– High School



To ensure a safe environment at our Vacation Bible School and all children's activities, volunteers must undergo background checks via Shepard's Watch. Look out for an email with instructions soon. Please complete the process to participate in this year's program.

Little's Story Time Team

Donna Merguc, Coordinator

Story time introduces the children to books, rhymes and rhythm, music and song, taking turns, paying attention, and being in a group. The children teach us adults the importance of simple joys, curiosity, living in the moment, patience, forgiveness, and having fun.

LISTENING TO THE LITTLEST by Ruth Reardon

SOMETIMES...

let's just blow bubbles,
For no good reason,
let's just blow bubbles.

Laugh a little, watch them disappear,
not even wonder where.

Smile and touch the rainbow colors
watch them float in air.

No reason why,
no goals–no structure.

Sometimes...

let's just blow bubbles...

We are thankful for these five children who joined us this month: Jason Hurst, Seamus and Aiden Lane, Chitose and Mao Shimizu. We are having so much fun with them.

Sara Kell, we love displaying our crafts on the new cork bulletin board you got for us! Thank you thank you!

We continue to let the parents/grandparents know what's happening at First Presby by offering them a Presby Record.

The April, May, and June Little's schedule is in place. I thank God each month for the helpers I have to prepare these schedules...without them there would be NO Little's!

Spiritual Life Committee

****VBS:****

Dates: June 9-13.

****Wednesday Nights with the Youth:****

Raven is conducting a six-week Lenten study on parables. Activities include growing butterflies and planting sunflowers. They will also be collecting items for the food pantry. Need another adult to support Raven.

****Wednesday Night Adults:****

Mark will lead adults through Lent.

****Sunday Morning Nursery:****

Combs family absent for a month due to surgery. Kristi preparing for their return with lessons and volunteers.

Congregational Care:*

Discussed Jason Haught's recovery and Combs' daughter's surgery.

Plan to send cards to kids.

Updates on Patty Mullins, Gabe, Wyatt, and Libby Mobley. Connie reported on Landon Hamler's dental surgery. Missy selling Easter confections on Facebook.

Littles:*

Weather issues resolved, newly painted room looks great.

Kitchen:*

Kathy suggests replacing center island with four stainless steel tables.

Seeking permission to explore costs and plan.

Need to confirm approval for 5th Sunday brunches.

Missions:*

Requesting approval for "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering.

Planning minutes for mission on March 23, April 6, and Easter.

Evangelism:*

Kathleen's neighbors (Heather and Jason Scales) visited; need to deliver a mug.

Discussed summer market location; Raven requested approval to host it again.

Blessing Bags:*

Continues on schedule.

Lenten Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13th

10am Service

First Presbyterian of St. Albans

Maundy Thursday, April 17th

7pm

First Presbyterian of St. Albans

Good Friday, April 18th

7pm

Riverlawn Presbyterian

Sunrise Service, April 20th

7am

Cunningham Cemetery

Easter Sunday, April 20th

Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Brunch

10am

First Presbyterian of St. Albans

Facilities Committee

April

- Pastor's office wall repair is completed
- Education building roof is being completed
- HVAC in sanctuary is being completed
- Clean Up day 4-12-25
- Dehumidifier in basement should be completed by the 1st week of April
- Kitchen door camera back up and running
- Temporary custodian to start Tuesday March 25th. she will work Tuesday and Saturday

MARCH 9th SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Moderator.
- Received January and February Expense Statements as presented.
- Rev. Boyd will take the week after Easter for vacation.
- Rev. Boyd noted Wednesday Night Bible Study will be on Malachi.
- Good Friday service will be held at Riverlawn Presbyterian Church along with Highlawn Presbyterian.
- Reviewed 2024 Statistics of church membership.
- Approved:
 - Kathy Weed to preach on March 30 while Rev. Boyd will be on vacation.
 - West Virginia Horse Network use of the kitchen and Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 26.
 - Collection for Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering.
 - Tulips will be available for purchase for Easter Sunday.
 - Potential dates for Vacation Bible School in June.
 - Youth will hold a Lenten Project collecting items that are not usually donated to the St. Albans Food Pantry.
 - 5th Sunday brunches for the year.
 - Minutes for Mission for One Great Hour of Sharing.
 - Use of the church parking lot for the Summer Market if needed.
 - A clean-up day for inside and outside the church building on Saturday, April 12.
 - Ken Cottrill will repair the wall in the Pastor's study where termites were removed in the amount of \$2,400.
 - United Structural systems, Ltd to install a high-capacity dehumidifier in the basement in the amount of \$3,550.



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 (OGHS) — 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. Received during the season of Lent (**March 5 – April 20**), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterian come together every year to work for a better world.

You will be hearing more about One Great Hour from our Mission Committee throughout Lent with bulletin inserts and minutes for mission. Thank you.

St. Albans Ministry Alliance Presents:

Theme for 2025 Lenten Series –
“**Loving God by Serving Others**”
Lunch – Noon

April 2 Host: St. Andrew UMC

Speaker: Rev. Chris Kilbert (Riverlawn Presbyterian)

Impact: Gabriel Project (Lyn Traube/Carolyn Smithers)

April 9 Host: Gateway

Speaker: Leader from Gateway

Impact: Christ’s Kitchen/Food Pantry (Beth Sturgill)

Jericho House (Carla Kay Hoskins)

Easter Tulip order forms are available now at the both entrances to the Sanctuary and in the church office. Please fill out your form and return it with your check to the church office by April 17th.



Welcome Aboard!

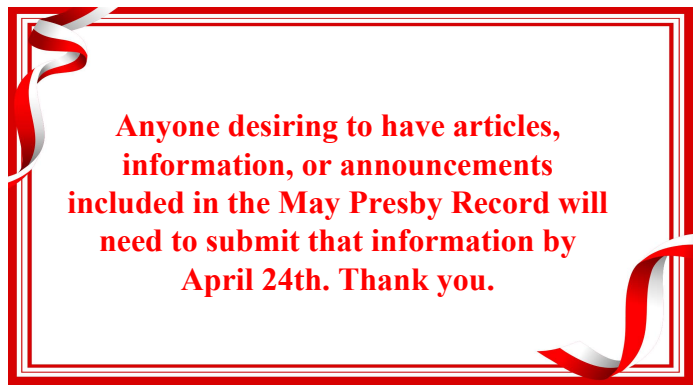
Please join the Administrative Committee in extending congratulations to Raven Lanham who has accepted our position as the new Administrative Assistant at First Presbyterian. Raven began her position on March 1 and will be working in the office Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Raven brings a wealth of experience in her previous positions and holds an Associate’s Degree in Business Management. She is currently the owner of RavenzCravinz in St. Albans.

As most of you know, Raven and her husband Matt are members at First Presbyterian.

Please give Raven a hearty congratulations on her new position.

First Presbyterian Church
201 Kanawha Terrace
St. Albans, WV 25177



Trustees

Class of 2025: Buck Ivey
Class of 2026: Holly Greathouse
Class of 2027: Dewitt Bowman

Officers

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Dave Harvey (1)	Kathleen Jordan (2)	Jennifer Burgess (1)
Adam Greathouse (1)	Valerie Wade (2)	Kathy Harrah (1)
Buck Ivey (1)	Kristi Sutphin (1)	Jack Rogers (2)

Church Staff

Ministers..... Every Member of the Congregation
 Pastor Rev. Mark Boyd
 Administrative Assistant.....Raven Lanham
 Custodian Mike Merguc
 Musician..... N. David Stern
 TreasurerBuck Ivey
 Tech Team Dave&Wendy Harvey, Betty King, Logan Roberts

First Presbyterian Church
 201 Kanawha Terrace, St. Albans, West Virginia 25177
 Phone: 304 727-2241
 Email: fpcs@firstpresbychurch.com
 Web site: www.firstpresbychurch.com
 Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of St. Albans