



The Newsletter

*First Presbyterian Church
Tullahoma, Tennessee*

April 2025
Volume 53, Issue 3

Holy Week Events at First Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday, April 13, is the first day of Holy Week and commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We will gather in our back parking lot (weather permitting) at 9:00 for a **Palm Walk** to Caboose Park, where participants from the churches taking part will gather for a brief service about the events of Palm Sunday. After that, participants will return to their respective churches.

Upon returning to FPC, we will gather in the Williams Family Center for **Fellowship Time** (hosted by the Worship Committee) and to assemble for a **palm procession** into the sanctuary for the Palm Sunday worship service.

Maundy Thursday Service - We will hold a special Maundy Thursday at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 17. Folks are asked to bring a dish to share. This service is held on the day of the Passover meal (Last Supper) Jesus had with his disciples before his arrest later that night and crucifixion the next day (Good Friday.) This meal includes prayers and other liturgy; Communion will be a part of this special time. We will celebrate that Jesus invites us to share this meal with him each time we have Communion.

Easter – Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at the **Easter worship service on April 20 at 10:30 a.m.** There will be joyful hymns and beautiful lilies.

We will continue to receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**, the special offering received during Lent through Easter Sunday. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with those in need around the world. The offering provides relief to those affected by natural disasters, provides food to the hungry, and helps to empower the poor and oppressed. ***One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference in the world.***

Other Events in April

Children's Easter Celebration – Saturday, April 12, at 10:00 a.m. at the church – Children in fifth grade and under are invited to join us for games, snacks, fellowship, and an Egg Hunt.

The Kingdom Kids present *Children of God* – April 27 – Following the worship service we will have a **potluck meal** in Williams Family Center. The children's program will be in the sanctuary following the meal.

Children of God is a beautiful blend of several resources. The centerpiece is *The Father's Fishermen: The Story of the Faithful Follower*, a heartwarming journey of faith, love, and purpose. The story follows Nobody, a little orphan boy who longs for a family, love, and belonging as he is transformed when he discovers a Heavenly Father, who gives him a new name and a greater purpose. Incorporated into the story are music and lines from the musical *Salt and Light* as well as Bible verses. All together these parts beautifully tie our *Children of God* program into a cohesive celebration of faith, love and purpose.

In this Issue: p. 2 Groups, Joys/Concerns, Birthdays; p. 3 Pastor's Column; p. 4 Minute with Mike; p. 5 Offering from the Office; pages 6, 7, 8 Around and About FPC; pages 8, 9, 10 Session Committees Reports

Here's what's happening!

Presbyterian Women

Women's Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall, **Wednesday, April 9, at 10:00 a.m.** We are using the Horizon Bible Study *Let Justice Roll Down, God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* by Patricia K. Tull.

This month we will discuss Climate Change. Scripture teaches us to listen to prophets who warn of threats, avoid complacency and self-concern, and participate with joy in the work God has given us to do. Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:14; 2:24; 3:9-11; Isaiah 22:13; Jeremiah 37:11-16; Luke 12:16-21; 12:19; 1 Corinthians 12:12.

All women are invited to attend. A light lunch will be served.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be April 13. Gathering time is 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast is provided. All men are welcome.

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

May Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, April 22, at noon.



Parish Joys/Concerns

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:4-5

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Bene Cox
 Laville and Polly Dove (Mary Grigsby's and Ken Diehl's brother and sister-in-law)
 Jo Hattersley
 Sandy McKinney
 Vanessa McKinney
 Christy Sherrer
 Bethany Sterling
 Drew Sterling
 Robert Wright
 Renee Yoder, Lee and Yevonne
 Yoder's daughter-in-law in New Mexico and their daughter Kathy Weaver in Huntsville, Alabama.

Please remember in your prayers the following people who are unable to attend worship regularly:

Patra Escue (home)
 Connie Flath (NHC)
 Sue Harvey (home)
 Hilde Joellenbeck (home)

Thank you –

Dear FPC Youth Group, Bethany, and Congregation,

You are truly a blessing to our ministry! Your collection of 132.4 pounds of food plus a check of \$669.00 was simply amazing.

This year's Souper Bowl of Caring donation to Good Samaritan Food Pantry will allow us to continue to provide much needed food to local families in need.

Thank you,

Cindy and the Good Sam Team

*Plus – thank you all for your efforts in making this year's event such a success!



April Birthdays

1 – Bonnie Watts
 2 – Ardeana Patterson
 5 – Deborah Lawrence
 8 – Lexi Fletcher
 Mary Grigsby
 Suzi Hall Patton
 12 – Jean Carter
 14 – Katie Prasser
 17 – Sid Steely
 20 – Steve Harvey
 27 – Sloane Sturgill
 Jim Ward

If you have a birthday in April and your name is not on the list, please call the church office and let us know. We would like to add your name to the birthday calendar.

First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
P. O. Box 847
Tullahoma, TN 37388

Vision statement: Worshipping God,
growing together, serving others,
welcoming all

Sunday school – 9:00 a.m.

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Church Office: 204 E. Grundy

Phone: 931 455-9328

FAX: 931 455-9306

E-mail addresses

Stephen: sgyates1970@gmail.com

Martha: m2bradley@lighttube.net

Katie: katherineprasser@gmail.com

David: davidhiebert9@icloud.com

Bethany: bethanybsterling@gmail.com

Robert: robertwright621@gmail.com

Mike: michaelrbradley@lighttube.net

Church Web site:

www.fpctullahoma.org

Youth Website:

www.pyc-tullahoma.com

Preschool Office: 931 455-1515

Preschool Email:

learningplace@lighttube.net

Preschool Website:

www.learningplacetullahoma.org

Church Staff

Pastor: Stephen Yates

Minister to Children: Katie Prasser

Minister to Youth: Bethany Sterling

Secretary: Martha Bradley

Organist: David Hiebert

Music Director: Robert Wright

Parish Associate for Pastoral Care:

Michael Bradley

Learning Place Preschool Director:

Bethany Sterling

Custodian: Shannon Prasser

Members of Session

Murray Brown

Charlotte Broyles

Alan Harris

Charles Harvey

Karla Haws

Bob Huffines

J. Ray Joellenbeck

Karla Keough

Shirley Levine

Helen McClure

Bethany Sterling, Clerk

Brad Sturgill



Dear Church Family,

I begin by confessing this article is shameless self promotion. Several years ago I was talked into doing a play with Audrey and Luke. Called *Sordid Lives*, I had a bit part as a minister (funny, right!). Audrey and Luke had much larger roles and stole the show in my “unbiased” opinion.

To my surprise, I enjoyed the experience and have continued to dabble in acting. And so the first two weekends in April, the 4th, 5th, 6th, and then the 11th, 12th, and 13th, Audrey and I will be in a play at the Manchester Arts Center called *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* by Chris Durang. A comedy, the play is about three siblings and their efforts to deal with change both personally and culturally. Vanya and Sonia are trying to figure out what to do with their lives after spending several years taking care of their chronically ill parents, who both have recently died. Masha, on the other hand, is trying to come to terms with being a famous actress, who is clearly at the tail end of her career.

The play, I think, is a riot! So much so, I have a hard time keeping a straight face at times during rehearsals. But it is also poignant and heartfelt, and so I also have a hard time avoiding a tear or two during rehearsals as well. Oh, and did I mention my character, Vanya, has a four-page monologue toward the end of the play!! (Yikes!)

But I’ve come to realize I enjoy theater because plays seem to naturally allow for discussions about life we tend to avoid or find hard to have. For whatever reason, plays provide a space for conversations that don’t tend to happen normally. Or if they do happen, they too often end up being ugly and dispiriting.

And really the good plays? Well, they also allow for change and growth amidst the conversations that are sometimes hard for us to have. And that’s why *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* is such a good play, I think. For by the time the play is over, a door has been opened for Vanya, Sonia, and Masha to collectively have a very different relationship than they’ve had in the past.

So come join Audrey and me the first two weekends in April for a really funny play, if you are so inclined. Hopefully, if all goes well, you’ll find it as funny and poignant as I do!

Your Pastor,

Stephen

Minute with Mike by Michael Bradley, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Seeking Security in Uncertain Times

Security is very important to most of us. We are careful to protect our property with locks, good lighting, and fences. We guard our passwords and PIN numbers so unauthorized access to our bank accounts and credit cards is not easy. We regard with suspicion emails which ask for personal information because we don't want to fall for a scam scheme. Precautions enhance our sense of security.

There are things in our lives, some which seem very large, some perhaps insignificant, without which we feel totally adrift. It may be our home or family, or something little, like a pair of old slippers. We have all known children or grandchildren who became so attached to a blanket or a stuffed toy that being separated from it really upsets them.

Most of us love our churches. If our family has worshipped there for years that feeling may be intense. There's a sense of ownership in our attitude to those windows or pews. To others, new to the faith, the church building may be special because in it they celebrate their newfound or their restored faith.

During the time of the life of Christ the Jewish people centered this sense of security on the Temple in Jerusalem. Whether they lived near to the building or at the farthest corner of the Empire, the Temple was a magnet that drew them to itself. The Temple they knew was built by

Herod the Great in an attempt to win the favor of the Jews. It stood on the site of Solomon's great building, destroyed centuries earlier when the Jews were conquered and carried off as slaves to Babylon.

The eventual restoration of the Temple symbolized both religious revival and the continuity of the nation itself. Israel had come to think that being a chosen people had nationalistic implications; they thought they were "exceptional." Israel was exceptional, but it was exceptional in its role of being the living presence of God for the whole world. They were a holy people because they had a mission—the mission of speaking God's message. The Temple was the symbol of that message.

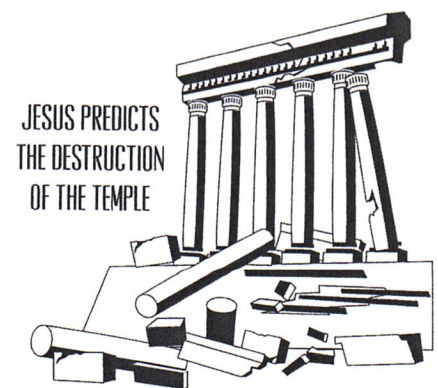
During his final stay in Jerusalem Jesus visited the Temple, and he was disgusted at what he saw. The Temple had been turned into the center of a money-making racket.

The Temple was the only place for the people to offer sacrifices. When a family brought its sacrifice to the Temple, it was carefully inspected to make sure it was of high quality. If the sacrifice was rejected, there were substitutes available at a high price. When a person offered his money to buy the substitute, the money was rejected because it was "secular" coins. However, these could be exchanged for "pure" Temple currency—for a price. Something intended to be holy, special, unique had been turned into a crooked commercial

transaction. Jesus was furious. The "gentle Jesus, meek and mild" was replaced by a very angry man. Whip in hand—imagine a well-aimed flick at a prominent bottom—Jesus cleared the room of these crooked merchants, many of whom were priests.

What an act in the seat and symbol of religious and national security. Then Jesus shouts that the Temple will be destroyed.

Jesus was saying two things at once. As Emmanuel, God With Us, He is our security. The symbol of that security would be His death and resurrection—the destruction of Jesus' body and its renewal. The place where we worship is a symbol of the presence of Jesus, of God With Us, but church buildings do not exist to suggest that we are a special people or that we are better than others or that we are "holy," except in the sense that we are a people with a mission, a mission to share the security found in loving God and loving each other.



Offering from the Office by Martha Bradley, Church Secretary

Do you know the cross can be interpreted through multiple lenses? Let's examine a few perspectives.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, I find that it is a good time to think about the meaning of the cross.

Jesus died for our sins. From cradle to the present, I've been taught to be in awe of Jesus' wondrous love represented through the cross. Our sin is too deep to undo; our guilt is too baked into our humanity; our debt is too large to forgive. We are not worthy of God's redemption. Yet still, Jesus saves us.

Traditionally Christians have understood the cross by emphasizing humanity's guilt and sin. For many, this is the only way to view the cross. Any other approach is heresy. Mercifully, the Bible itself and the history of Christian theology offer a variety of ways to understand the crucifixion.

What happened on the cross may be one of the greatest divine mysteries of all time. We can no sooner explain its precise inner workings than we can describe the immensity of God's being. Yet, we are invited to approach the cross – not for understanding but for a relationship with God. If we think we can grasp the totality of what transpired, we are filled with pride. Humility and an openness to Christ will serve us better as we seek understanding.

Everything we know about the cross has come to us as a

metaphor. The Bible talks about the cross as a place of forgiveness (Colossians 2:13-14), and ransom (Mark 10:45), and escape from punishment (Romans 5:6-11), but there are other perspectives to consider.

The cross as love – It doesn't take too much digging to see that the Bible also talks about the cross as a place of love. It exemplifies God's compassion for us – to suffer with us and not turn against us. The cross is a place where we can learn about the love God has for us and what love we should show one another. (John 15:13)

The cross as reconciliation – The Bible also reminds us that the cross is a place where we are reconciled to God. Theologian Paul Tillich reminds us in *The Shaking of the Foundation* that sin is what separates us from God. On the cross Christ dramatically demonstrated to us that our relationship with God cannot be severed. Instead, God's action ensures we can approach the heavenly sanctuary. We are connected. We are God's children, we are reconciled. (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

The cross as restoration – The cross is a place where Christ's unflinching obedience contrasts with our disobedience. In being born, in entering the place of the dead, Jesus changed the essence of what it means to be human. We are able to go back to our original goodness. A new way opens up. (Galatians 2:19-20)

The cross as liberation – There is an abundance of Scripture and tradition that reminds us of the cosmic aspect of the cross. Jesus confronted the greatest evil, the greatest forces that oppose God and assail humanity, including death itself. He fought a great battle and won. In his victory he shared the spoils with humanity – life everlasting. (Galatians 1:3-4; Galatians 5:1)

When we talk about the cross, we often focus on salvation (what saves us) and atonement (what unites us with God). We should never be afraid to seek out and examine a new perspective and perhaps a new understanding of the meaning of the cross.

God does not condemn us for reading Scripture closely, for examining our beliefs as we encounter new information, for seeing salvation in a new light. Our lives change and so does our faith. We face new problems and new challenges that will lead us to resonate with different theologies of the cross. Taking these changes seriously is a sign of faith and trust in God. The cross may yet point to something more for you. Just know that you can shift the angle of your gaze.

(NOTE: Much of this column is based on an article by Elana Keppel Levy printed in *Presbyterian Outlook* in 2024.)



Around and About FPC

Children's Ministry

It's that time of year again when it seems like we have non-stop activities being planned from spring programs to end-of-year activities and summer plans. The next few months have lots going on that your children won't want to miss. Be sure to check out the schedule and mark your calendars. The Kingdom Kids have started working on their spring program. Be sure to see the information included in the newsletter (front page) for all the details.

Our April Sunday school (April 6) topic will be *Easter*.

With spring comes Easter. And we will once again be having an Easter celebration for the children on April 12, at 10:00 A.M. here at the church. Just a reminder that any donations of candy or other small prizes with which to stuff eggs will need to be brought to the church by Sunday, April 6.

This year's VBS is a biblical marketplace theme. The children and adult volunteers will journey back through time to experience the Bible stories in a 1st-century way. To make this happen we will be constructing a 1st century marketplace like the ones Jesus would have traveled through. We would appreciate any donations of old sheets (fitted, flat, and/or pillowcases) that are no longer of use to you. We could also use any large sticks that are sturdy and 5 to 7 feet long. Please make sure to look at the children's bulletin board in the CE wing for more details and information on how you can help with VBS.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are deeply grateful for the volunteers who make all of these

programs possible, whether through teaching or helping behind the scenes. If you are interested in volunteering with our children's programs, please contact Katie Prasser, Children's Minister, at (931) 841-8078 or by email at katherineprasser@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar! Here are some key events and activities coming up for The Children's Program!

April 6 - Sunday School - Easter
(9:00 A.M.)

April 12 - Easter Celebration
(10:00 A.M.)

April 27 - Kingdom Kids Program

- there will be a potluck lunch following worship and the children's program will be after the potluck. Kids need to be at the church by 9:00 A.M. for practice. We will practice during the Sunday school hour and then have regular worship/ Children's Church. The children will eat and then go to the sanctuary to get ready for their performance.

April 30 - Ms. Katie will be out of town - Kingdom Kids may be canceled depending on volunteer availability

May 4 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR CHILDREN'S CHURCH - Ms Katie is out.

May 21- END OF YEAR BASH

June 4 - June 6 - VBS - The Market Place 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

June 27 - June 28 - 7 P.M. to 7 A.M. Lock-in for rising 3rd graders - rising - 6th graders

July 2 - Movie - more details to come

Sharing Our Ministry with Others

If you know anyone with children who would like more information about our programming, please feel free to take a Children's Ministry pamphlet from our information center in the narthex.

You may also reach out to Katie Prasser for additional details. We are always excited to welcome new friends to our programming and look forward to sharing God's love with them.

Katie Prasser
Children's Minister
katherineprasser@gmail.com
(931)841-8078



Easter lilies

We will celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 20. You are invited to participate in this joyous celebration by furnishing a lily to decorate the church.

The lilies can be designated in honor of a special person or as a memorial. An insert in the Easter bulletin will list the honorees and memorials along with the name of the person contributing the gift. Cost of the lilies will be \$18.00 each. If you would like to place an order, please call the church office (455-9328) or fill out the form in the Sunday bulletins and place it in the offering plate. Make your check to the church and mark it "lily".

Deadline for ordering is April 6.

The Salon, A Rave for the Soul

We hope you will join us for the next Salon service, which will be April 2 with Helen McClure as our speaker. Tim Behrendorff will be our May speaker.

Many Thanks!

Thank you to the anonymous donor of a crock pot for the kitchen and to the two other individuals who reached out to me about donating a crock pot. The new crock pot is in the kitchen and will be put to good use for youth meals.



Have you “liked” the church Facebook page? FPC Tullahoma does a lot; however, we aren’t always the most vocal about what we do.

The church’s Facebook page is an easy way to show off our church to our neighbors without

ever leaving the comfort of our homes. If you are on Facebook, whether regularly or occasionally, we encourage you to “like” the church’s Facebook page.

Through our periodic posts as well as your “likes” on these individual posts, visitors see our church is active and appreciated. You’re welcome to go a step further and share the posts to your Facebook page.

If you have an event or activity that relates to the church and you want to make an even

bigger impact to our publicity, feel free to send Bethany Sterling a few pictures of the event as well as a brief synopsis and she will add it to the Facebook page. The information needs to be timely rather than a week or more in the past. If you have an upcoming event, that information can be posted on the Facebook page as well.

You can send the information to bethanybsterling@gmail.com or to 931-247-8170. Thanks for your help in promoting our church.

A Testament to Faith and Providence

Kathy Yoder Weaver’s Miracle

The Yoder family has experienced a miracle, which I want to document and tell others so they will see the Lord’s work.

A little back ground: Our daughter Kathy Weaver broke her left foot and had surgery on January 30, 2025. She was recuperating with no weight bearing on that foot. She was using crutches or a leg scooter to move around.

On Wednesday, February 12, 2025, Joey age 11 had the final meeting of his Boy Scout God and Family study, and when asked if he wanted Dad or Mom to attend with him, he said Mom. Kathy had driven them to the meeting at St John Catholic Church.

She parked the car, and Joey got her leg scooter for her, and they were moving up the ramp to the Church door with many other people around. Kathy passed out and fell off the scooter, unconscious. Joey was very concerned and ran and got the leader of the day’s program of his God and Family. She was a PhD in Physical Therapy and knew what the symptoms meant and

immediately took change and requested immediately EMTs and ambulance. Kathy resumed consciousness by this time and was able to OK an ambulance. They performed immediate treatment and transported her emergency to the Huntsville Hospital. She was met at the entrance and immediately taken to a treatment room. They quickly determined that she had blood clots in the lungs.

They quickly took her to emergency surgery and using a special instrument entered the vein through the groin and proceeding up thru the heart and removed the clots.

She was experiencing symptoms of oxygen starvation and immediately after removal of the clots was returning to normal.

Some of the reasons I believe that this is a miracle:

- Joey requested that she be the one to take him to the meeting that evening. Otherwise she would have been on the couch resting because of the leg surgery.
- It happened with people around who were able to help and to summon EMTs.
- The transport was to the Huntsville Hospital which had the special instrument.
- The team operating the instrument responded rapidly and was successful in removing the clots.
- The medical staff all said that it was a miracle that she survived this serious situation.
- The first post medical exam February 18 showed NO indication of damage to her heart.

Lee Yoder

Mission Sunday is April 13

Mission Sunday is the Sunday each month during which we bring items for the Good Sam Ministry. The requests for April are listed below. There is the recurring list and the special requests for April.

Regular food request: canned fruits, canned vegetables, dry spaghetti, pasta sauce, soup, soda crackers, cereal, peanut butter, canned tuna, and canned chicken.

Special food needs this month: cereal and crackers

Personal hygiene request: Kleenex and dish soap

Good Sam Ministry

Ministry office was open 17 days

UTILITIES - 22F, 33A, 20C

PROJECT HELP - 1F, 2A, 2C

RENT - 4F, 5A, 0C

FOOD - 86F, 157A, 61C

DIGNITY - 86F, 157A, 61C

**All clients are given two dignity items per month, and they may choose 3 extra items from our bookcase in the ministry office.*

*These items may be lotions, candles, candy, spices, protein drinks, hand sanitizer, or over the counter medications**

BABY BOOM - 5F, 6A, 4C

GIFTS/GIVEAWAYS - 12F, 13A, 4C (Clothing & Shoes)

HOMELESS - 3F, 5A, 0C

PET FOOD -30F

Your support - monthly donations is a blessing to our ministry!

Cindy Kinney, Director

Session Committee Reports

Worship Committee – Charlotte Broyles

One area that falls under the Worship Committee is the flowers you enjoy on the choir rail each week. Also included is changing what appears on the choir rail during Lent, the palms and lilies for Lent and Easter, and the decorations and poinsettias for Advent and Christmas.

Thelma (Fuffy) Bearden is the person who makes those things happen, either by coordinating the effort with others as for Advent or by using her artistic gift to create arrangements for the choir rail.

You may have noticed how the arrangements change with the season to reflect the beauty of God's creation in nature. Perhaps you have a special someone or event for which you would like to provide flowers. Perhaps you have flowers in your yard you would like to use. There are several options available. If you would like more information, please contact Thelma (Fuffy) Bearden at (931) 607-8119 or talk with her when you see her at church.

Congregational Care Committee – Karla Haws

Congregational Care Committee would like to thank everyone for their help with the reception for David and Joyce Hiebert on March 16, 2025.

Many visits by various CCC members have been made to our members who are unable to attend church. Much enjoyment from the visits has been reported by CCC members. Also many phone calls were made to keep in touch with members.

Birthday cards 27 Get Well cards 5

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

In Christ,

Congregational Care Committee

Family Activity and Outreach Committee –

Shirley Levine, Helen McClure

The Family Activity and Outreach Committee will meet **Monday, April 14, 1:00 p.m.**, in Fellowship Hall. All committee members are encouraged to attend.

Thanks to all committee members who assisted in any capacity with the reception honoring David Hiebert.

There will be no dinner outing in April since we will have a **potluck dinner on Maundy Thursday, April 17, 6:00 p.m.** in Williams Family Center. Please make plans to attend this dinner and worship experience.

Sign-ups continue for fellowship time following the Sunday worship service. We are happy to report committees have volunteered, and we have commitments through May 18. If you care to sign up, the list is on the lectern in the narthex. Note: On Palm Sunday, April 13, Fellowship Time will be **BEFORE** worship service, after returning from the Palm Walk where we gather with First Christian.

Chair yoga classes continue, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 1:00 p.m., Williams Family Center. Note: There will be no class on Thursday, April 17, Maundy Thursday.

Men's Breakfast – Men of the church gather for breakfast the 2nd Sunday each month. 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All men are invited.

Session Committee Reports

Mission Committee – J. Ray Joellenbeck and Brad Sturgill

Annual Rummage Sale

The annual rummage sale will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2025. This is a huge project for our church, and all proceeds fund Mission outreach throughout the year. This outreach includes the monthly emergency funds that assist community members with gas and electric bills, donations to local charities, local disaster relief, school supplies, Christmas baskets, etc.

The Mission Committee needs your help for a successful event. Please consider volunteering to help with this event by donating items for the sale, assisting with set up the week before, using your expertise in the pricing of items for which you are familiar (kitchen appliance, dishes, antique items, tools, etc.), picking up donations during the week before the sale,

and then working on the sale day to assist shoppers, take up money, and load and deliver larger items.

We are grateful to Nan Hall and Debbie Brown for volunteering to coordinate this year's sale. Be on the lookout for more information related to drop off times, volunteer sign-ups, etc. as we get closer to July. Please contact a member of the mission committee if you have questions.

OGHS Reminder

Remember that the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering is collected throughout Lent (March 5-April 20). Special offering envelopes are in the pew racks. Remember that this offering addresses hunger, disaster recovery and self-development through three specific programs—

- (1) 32% of the funds raised via One Great Hour of Sharing

support **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, which is committed to helping people recover from the devastation of natural and human-caused disasters, including support for refugees.

- (2) The second is the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, which receives 36% of the funds. This program is committed to ending global hunger and aims to address the systemic causes of poverty so that all may be fed.
- (3) The remaining 32% of the total collected supports the **Self-Development of People**. This program is committed to helping communities around the world gain the skills they need to improve their communities.

Property Committee – Bob Huffines

We are awaiting Jon Gault to finish repairs created by the March 2024 windstorm. An additional repair was added to his list which was replacing soffit missing on the south side of the building.

Decision was made by the Property Committee to order 12 LED spotlights to replace expended units in the Sanctuary. If they work well, 12 more will be ordered and replace the remaining 12 lights.

New windows were installed in the Phoenix house. Installation of new windows in the Educational wing will began on March 17.

Alan replaced the expended bulbs in the Lincoln Street road sign making it functional.

Our black street signs exhibited bird droppings on all three signs. Signs were cleaned and touched up by Bob.

Ron Gault updated the Phoenix Apartment unit 2-U, which needed many repairs as follows: new light bulbs, outlet cover plates, light switch plates, kitchen cabinet repairs, and the addition of new pull handles.

In the near future, look for fresh flowers to be planted by Betty and Mary Jane Christopher.

Sherrill Pest Control is addressing infestation in the Pre-School area by treating as needed.

Alan continues to replace expended lighting in our buildings as needed.

Experiencing issues with our Washington Street double door latches (panic bars). Alan replaced one panic bar unit with a new unit, which should solve the issues.

That's about it for the time being. Please refer suggestions/recommendations for property improvements to any member of the Committee. Thank you!

Respectfully;
Bob Huffines, Chairman.

Session Committee Reports

Finance and Personnel Committee – Alan Harris

This is my annual reprint of my advertisement and request for church members who would be willing to use their professional skills to support our church ministry. Please contact me or the church office if you can do these types of work and feel led to get involved.

TREASURER – First Presbyterian is looking for two persons; one who can serve as receiving treasurer and one who can serve as disbursing treasurer for our church. Knowledge of Intuit Quickbooks is a plus, and experience with payroll accounting is a bonus.

As I mentioned last year, our church is required to have routine

financial evaluations and make recommendations as to future bookkeeping and accounting practices. We engaged a local accounting firm, MG Group, to perform these services and they gave us a satisfactory assessment of how we manage our business accounting. This was not an audit. We anticipate using their services again this year and next year we will likely be audited.

You may read elsewhere in this newsletter about last year's storm damage to our bell tower, roof, sanctuary soffit, and church office roof, as well as roof damage to our Phoenix properties. This project still

has some repairs yet to do (I know this because I also serve on the church Property Committee). I mention it here again because our committee is tasked with allocating money to pay for this unplanned expense. We maintain a contingency for these types of circumstances. At this point, we are assured the cost will be less than our deductible.

If you have any questions or recommendations/concerns, please see me, call me, or text me. Also, if you are willing to serve in some capacity as Receiving or Disbursing Treasurer, please talk with me or Stephen.

Alan Harris



Vision Statement:
Worshipping God, growing together,
serving others, and welcoming all

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