

**April 2024**

# *Heard on High*

FPC Columbia's *Heard on High* is published monthly for all members and friends of First Presbyterian Church

## **Embracing Renewal: Finding Hope in Easter's Promise**

As we journey through the season of Eastertide (the 50 days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost), we are invited to contemplate the life-changing message of hope we just celebrated on Easter Sunday. In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we find not only triumph over death but also the promise of new beginnings, even in the most desolate and broken parts of our world.

Just as Jesus emerged victorious from the tomb, so too can we find hope in the midst of our own struggles and challenges. In the brokenness of our world, where pain and suffering often seem to overshadow the light, Easter reminds us that God's love is relentless and His power to transform is boundless.

I would challenge us this month to consider the areas of our lives that may be in need of renewal. Perhaps it is a broken relationship that yearns for reconciliation or a habit we need to let go of, maybe we are being invited into deeper study of God's word. Whatever it is, Easter offers us the assurance that God is at work, breathing life into the darkest corners of our hearts and lives.

Easter also calls us to confront the brokenness of our world with courage and compassion. In a world torn apart by war, injustice, and greed, the message of Christ's resurrection offers a beacon of hope—a reminder that even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, love has the power to conquer hate, and light will always overcome darkness.

As we heard that first week in Lent when we began our sermon series on Jesus' I Am statements, Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

May this Easter season be a time of profound transformation and renewal in our lives, as we embrace the hope and light of Christ.

In Christ,

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# Mission



## WAYS TO HELP A LOCAL BENEVOLENCE

Harvest Share Food Pantry is a local benevolence that helps meet the needs of the homeless as well as families with children and our older citizens who struggle to make ends meet. This year, due to bad weather and a new location, their main annual fundraiser, Soup-N-Bowl, fell short of its goal. Two ways to make up for this shortage are donations and volunteering.

As to food specifics, Aldi's, Food Lion and Dollar General donate bread and produce; the government sends rice, dried beans, and soup. The main needs are canned vegetables, fruit, tuna and salmon, Vienna sausages, ramen noodles, oatmeal, and white bread. The homeless appreciate pop top cans.

Our church is scheduling a special offering and food drive to help Harvest Share stock up. Food donations may be brought to the gathering space during the month of April. Checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church; specify Harvest Share on the memo line.

Volunteer jobs range from taking home dog food to divide into give-away size bags to spending a couple of hours onsite at 419 West 9th Street sorting/organizing food or cleaning. If you have a garden or chickens, surplus vegetables and fresh eggs are welcome donations. Also, prayers for Harvest Share are always needed and appreciated.

### *Holy Smokers*

On Saturday, March 23, the Holy Smokers fired up the grill to cook Boston butts for the Family Center's biggest fundraiser of the year, the Reverse Raffle. They prepared enough BBQ to feed 400 people. All of the proceeds from the Reverse Raffle help the Family Center provide assistance to those in need.



# Mission



The People's Table is a soup kitchen that serves those in Columbia who may need to choose between food and other basic needs of life. Meals are served on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 and each Friday at 11:30.

The People's Table is held at First United Methodist Church in the fellowship hall and is sponsored by: First United Methodist Church; St. Catherine's Catholic Church; St. Peter's Episcopal Church; First Cumberland Presbyterian Church; Riverside United Methodist Church; First Presbyterian Church; St. Paul's AME; Godwin Chapel UMC; First Church of the Nazarene; St. Luke's UMC; Spring Hill UMC; Trinity Lutheran Church and Maury Hills Church.

Our church is scheduled to serve the People's Table during the month of April on Fridays. We are seeking volunteers to cook, set up, serve, and clean up. If you would like to volunteer or need more information, please contact the church office at 931-388-1985.



## Mission Trip-July 8-13

The Mission Committee is planning an intergenerational service trip to Bluefield, West Virginia the week of July 8-13. The town of Bluefield was once known as little New York. Since the fall of the coal industry, downtown buildings have become vacant and only about 9,000 people live in this mountain oasis. Our team will work on light repair projects for some of the poorer residents of this community while helping to meet the physical and spiritual needs of families in the area.

While serving in Bluefield we will lodge at Bluefield First Church of the Nazarene. The church offers dining and meeting facilities, we will sleep in rooms that hold 8-10 campers. Breakfast and dinner will be served in the dining hall. Lunch will be provided at worksites.



We will be partnering with Mission Discovery. Mission Discovery trips aim to help developing communities. Teams of volunteers build homes for families in need, love on orphans, feed the hungry, clothe and educate school children, provide medical care and empower churches to bring hope to their communities. The Mission Discovery Staff arranges food, lodging, and logistics so volunteers will be effective from day one. Each night they offer a worship service to provide an atmosphere to come together and reflect on what we experience during the day. Our own Michael Kneff has worked for Mission Discovery for many years and serves as the Director of U.S. Projects. Michael will be leading our team.

If you would like to register or would like more information please contact Michael Kneff at [michaelkneff@gmail.com](mailto:michaelkneff@gmail.com).

# JOY

FELLOWSHIP

*Just older youth*



## SPRING CALENDAR

TUESDAY-APRIL 9

SPEAKER – THE BEE LADY  
SARAH GILLIAM  
WILL SHARE THE FASCINATING LIFE OF  
BEES. HONEY SAMPLES WILL BE  
OFFERED,  
LUNCH PROVIDED  
FELLOWSHIP HALL – 11:30

TUESDAY-MAY 14

EXCURSION TO LEIPERS FORK  
MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR  
THESE EVENTS BY CALLING THE  
CHURCH OFFICE AT (931) 388-1985.  
WATCH FOR ANY UPDATES OR CHANGES  
IN THE WEEKLY CHURCH EMAIL.



**PRESBY 101**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH**

**9:00 AM**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN  
LEARNING MORE ABOUT  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH? WHETHER YOU ARE  
A LONG TIME MEMBER OR A  
BRAND NEW VISITOR  
CURIOUS ABOUT JOINING  
OUR CHURCH FAMILY,  
YOU'RE INVITED! CALL THE  
CHURCH OFFICE AT 388-1985  
FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

# Congregational Life

## Thank You for Making Our Church Egg Hunt a Success!

We extend our gratitude to those who joined us for our recent Easter Egg Hunt Event. From the laughter of the children to the camaraderie among families, the spirit of togetherness was contagious! We are grateful for the volunteers who dedicated their time to organize and facilitate the egg hunt, the donors who generously supplied cookies and over 1000 candy filled eggs and the eager participants who hunted! Special thanks to Neelley and John King for hosting at their beautiful home. More photos can be viewed on our website under the events tab. [www.1stprescolumbia.org](http://www.1stprescolumbia.org)



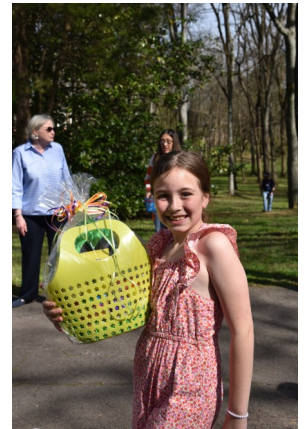
Golden Egg-Age 4 & under  
Bass Patton



Golden Egg-Age 5-K  
Arly Weaver



Golden Egg-1st-2nd Grade  
BeBe Molder



Golden Egg-3rd-5th Grade  
Ann Russell King



Neelley & John King  
Caroline, Ann Russell, Harrison



Youth Group



## Congregational Life



April 4-Laura Lewis  
April 6-Wesley Baxter  
April 7-Amy Overton  
April 7-Knox Allred  
April 17-Steve Lewis  
April 19-Michael Kneff  
April 25-Kenneth Hughes  
April 26-Mary Beth Cotham  
April 26-Levi Pearson

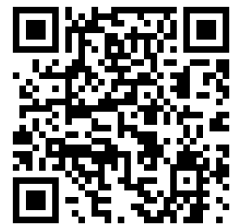


April 14-Jessica & Kevin Elam  
April 16-Karen & Lester Meehleder  
April 26-Judy & Gary Richcreek

## Discipleship



**Vacation Bible School**  
**June 17-20**  
**9 AM-Noon**



VBS is fast approaching and its time to register! Whether registering a child or volunteering, registering early is very helpful to the Discipleship committee in planning. Visit our website today at [www.1stprescolumbia.org](http://www.1stprescolumbia.org) or scan the QR code and register today!

Preschool-Age 4 (and potty trained) 10 spots available  
Kindergarten-5th grade 60 spots available  
Volunteer positions available for rising 6th grade-adults

# Property



## spring cleanup

April 27-9:00-12:00

As the warmth of spring begins to embrace us, it's time to spruce up the church and its surroundings. Our upcoming Spring Clean Up Day is April 27 and we are seeking volunteers to lend a hand! This is an excellent opportunity to come together and beautify our church and grounds. Whether you have a green thumb for gardening, a knack for organizing, love to paint, or simply willing hands to help, your participation is invaluable.

Tasks for the day include:

- Paint handrails – 7<sup>th</sup> St.
- Mechanical room – declutter
- Paint choir room
- Paint baseboards in office/nursery corridor
- Mulch; Plant annuals
- Clean ceiling vents – Gathering Space, Chapel
- Wash/wax church van (great “mid-high/high schooler” job with adult supervision)

No special skills are required, just a willingness to pitch in and make a difference. Whether you can spare an hour or three, your contribution is appreciated. Donuts and coffee will be served at 8:30 at the entrance to the upper (High St.) parking lot. Lunch will be served in the chapel at noon. Childcare provided upon request.

*thank you*

As we navigate the daily operations of our church, it is important to recognize individuals who work tirelessly behind the scenes. We would like to express our gratitude to Craig Lorch, Jim Ross, and Trent Pearson. They have been serving our church in various capacities, whether pressure washing our steps and sidewalks, planting flowers, keeping our lawn mowed and trimmed, repairing woodwork, painting, replacing steps, or just helping to maintain our facilities, their work does not go unnoticed. Thank you for creating a welcoming and supportive environment!

# Worship

## Liturgists

April 7	8:15-Ellen Ludwig	10:30-Jenny Sloan
April 14	Jeff Baxter	Terry Hendrickson
April 21	Ed Lancaster	Leigh Jones
April 28	Gloria Dale	Terri Flynn

## Acolytes

April 7	Knox Allred	Oaklee Odom
April 14	Gray Holloway	Issac Sweeney
April 21	Vivian Sweeney	Ann Russell King
April 28	Crozier Jones	Maddux Campbell

## Ushers

April 7	8:15 Captain- Moore Landers Ellen Ludwig	10:30 Captain- John Hill Terry Hendrickson, Jean Mac Ball, Steve Lewis, Andrew Hickman
April 14	Lester Meehleder	Joe Graham, Matt Campbell, Mike McAlister, Jim Mayfield
April 21	Frank Dale	Andy Crichton, Bo Holloway, Will Dale, Joe Kilgore
April 28	Rudy Gregory	Anna Grace Taylor, Dawn Taylor, Bill Cook, Jim Ross

If you are unable to serve on your assigned date please find your own replacement and email Renea Foster at [rfosterfpc@gmail.com](mailto:rfosterfpc@gmail.com) so that all information can be updated.



**Thank you** to the Choir of First Presbyterian Church for many weeks of rehearsal for Holy Week and Easter services; music is a major part of life at FPC!

# Wonderful Wednesday

## Schedule

### *Wonderful Wednesdays Resume April 10*

5:30-6:00	*Dinner for all
6:00-7:00	Adult Bible Study, FPC Chorister Rehearsal (grades K-5) and activities for children. 6th-12th Grade - with Michael Kneff in the youth room.
7:00	FPC Choir

\*If you plan to eat dinner, please fill out the yellow reservation card email Renea at [rfosterfpc@gmail.com](mailto:rfosterfpc@gmail.com) or call the church office by noon on Tuesday.