

First Presbyterian Church

508 2nd Avenue • South Charleston WV • 25303

fpcscwv.org •

APRIL 2025

"Everyday...is the day the Lord has made— Rejoice! and be glad in it!"



A Note from Your Pastor:

April arrives behind March, and this year March has given us every known weather pattern in a perfect zig-zag form. "In like a lion" and "out like a lion"...let us herald in April with singing and praise! It's good to see some sunshine and longer days to be sure. April will, this year, gift us with Easter. And I am looking forward to this Easter as plans are already in the works for Easter Egg Hunts and stuffing of the eggs. Keep a look out for how you can help the leaders of the children's program in preparing for the big day.

Our Lent Study series will continue through April 10th. We will be having lessons in: Spirit of Holiness, Spirit of Life, Spirit of Hope...as well as, one on the subject Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. The last three will be given on April 8, 9, and 10. If you can't join in us 10 o'clock those mornings, these lessons are stored on our Facebook page for 30 days, so you can jump in and watch them anytime.

During the month of April, keep your eyes on our Marquee sign for upcoming events. Also, we hope to be planting beautiful bushes and flowers in the base container of our Marquee sign. If you would like to join us in beautifying our campus, please call the church office or send us an email so that we can include you!

There are many ways in which you can participate in the community of our church. Visit our website to find more information about the life of the church, or come and pitch in! This month, heralding in the season of Spring, is the month of new beginnings. All are welcome in God's love!

You are a blessing to us! The love of Christ to all...

Ginna

Holy Week Schedule

(Worship services livestreamed on our website: www.fpcscwv.org and Facebook page)

Palm Sunday, April 13th

Worship Service - 11:00 am

Luncheon for All - 12:05 pm

It is the beginning of Holy Week.
Jesus enters Jerusalem for the last time.
As the crowd welcomed Jesus so also,
we welcome Jesus on this day

Maundy Thursday, April 17th

Worship Service - 6:30 pm

Jesus met with His disciples in an upper room for Passover.
During the meal, He talked about His Body and His Blood
then He gave the Great Mandate (Maundy):
"Love others as you have been loved."
The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Good Friday, April 18th

It is a day to reflect on our self-centeredness
and the price Jesus Christ paid for our selfishness
All are welcome to come & pray in the Sanctuary
7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Resurrection of the Lord, April 20th

Flowering the Cross 10:00 am

Worship - 11:00 am



Accounts of Jesus' Resurrection in the Four Gospels



On Easter Sunday we celebrate the **Resurrection of the Lord**, which is the center of the Christian year. We hope you will join us for worship as we joyfully proclaim the good news that is at the very heart of the gospel: that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. The handout below provides a comparison of the parallel accounts of Jesus' resurrection in each of the four Gospels. *Handouts provided by the Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Agency.*

<p>Matthew 28:1-10 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, <u>Mary Magdalene</u> and the other <u>Mary</u> suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an <u>angel of the Lord</u>, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly <u>Jesus</u> met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."</p>	<p>Mark 16:1-8 When the sabbath was over, <u>Mary Magdalene</u>, and <u>Mary the mother of James</u>, and <u>Salome</u> bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a <u>young man</u>, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.</p>	<p>Luke 24:1-12 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly <u>two men</u> in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was <u>Mary Magdalene</u>, <u>Joanna</u>, <u>Mary the mother of James</u>, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But <u>Peter</u> got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.</p>	<p>John 20:1-18 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, <u>Mary Magdalene</u> came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other <u>disciple</u>, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw <u>two angels</u> in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw <u>Jesus</u> standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.</p>
<p>Matthew 28:11-20 <i>Rumor of plot to steal body</i> <i>Great Commission (go and make disciples, baptizing, teaching)</i></p>	<p>Mark 16:9-20 <i>Shorter ending (proclamation)</i> <i>Longer ending (appearances, signs and wonders)</i></p>	<p>Luke 24:13-53 <i>Emmaus road (breaking bread)</i> <i>Jerusalem (eating fish)</i> <i>Ascension at Bethany</i></p>	<p>John 20:19-21:25 <i>Easter evening (locked doors, peace, receive the Holy Spirit)</i> <i>Appearance to Thomas (locked doors, one week later)</i> <i>Breakfast by the sea (miraculous catch, feed my sheep)</i></p>



One Great Hour of Sharing *Received Easter Sunday* *April 20, 2025*

How do you show love?

Jesus calls us to love one another – with the kind of love that is shared freely with all people. This is our calling as Christ's Church: to love others as Jesus loved us. To love every person we encounter despite the many walls that separate us.

In Isaiah 58, the Scripture that best helps us to understand the ministries supported by One Great

Hour of Sharing, we are called to be repairers of the breach. The prophet implores us to see those on the margins, the hungry and afflicted, as those for whom God holds great care. And so should we. Showing our love, sharing our love, is how we repair the breach in so many of our interactions in this world.

In this country and 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.

One Great Hour of Sharing has been a catalyst for love for over 75 years. Your gifts help those who are fighting for basic needs and seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice. Your gifts bring a beacon of love and hope in our world and put the power of healing into the hands of those who need it most.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love."¹

As we prepare our hearts today to support One Great Hour of Sharing, we are making the church to implement love and justice, for they are the only currencies in God's economy.

Always remember, we are called to repair the breach. We are the Church ... together, and when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

¹This quote appears in King's book, "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?"

Holy Week

Sunday, April 13 to Sunday, April 20



Palm Sunday Triumphant Entry

- Reading: Matthew 21:1-11
- Activity: Make palm crosses or a palm-themed craft.



Monday Cleansing the Temple

- Reading: Mark 11:15-18
- Activity: Take a reflective walk, silently praying about what you wish to eliminate from your life or discussing obstacles that hinder your time with God.



Tuesday Speaking in Parables

- Reading: Matthew 22:1-14
- Activity: Choose a Gospel and count how many parables Jesus uses. For a challenge, identify which parables are in each Gospel book.

Wednesday Silent Wednesday

- Reading: Psalm 46
- Activity: Engage in a quiet challenge, focusing on prayer, Scripture or silent activities with minimal speaking.



Thursday The Last Supper

- Reading: John 13:1-20
- Activity: Re-create a foot washing ceremony by washing each other's feet.



Good Friday The Crucifixion

- Reading: Isaiah 53
- Activity: Draw, paint or write about the theme of sacrifice or caring.



Holy Saturday Day of Preparation

- Reading: Luke 23:50-56
- Activity: Prepare for Easter by decorating or cooking traditional foods like bread.



Easter Sunday Jesus Is Risen!

- Reading: John 20:1-18
- Activity: Celebrate the Resurrection with joy and fellowship by singing worship songs or sharing a meal.



EASTER EGG STUFFING PARTY

Polly Taylor needs some help stuffing Easter eggs for the Children's Easter Egg Hunt.
We have plenty of Easter eggs and candy.
Please join us and help stuff eggs!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16TH, 2025

**TIME: 11:00 AM
CHURCH PARLOR**



First Presbyterian Church of South Charleston



Youth Group Leaders

Ginna Taylor, Pastor
304-419-3071
Pastor.ginna.fpcscwv@gmail.com

Rick Smith
304-437-3780
Rkssmith4343@gmail.com

Lori Miller Smith
304-549-9867
Lmillersmith@gowv.com

Youth Group Schedule 2025

April 6, 1:00 – 3:30 pm.

Pizza and Drinks.

Fun Time at Sky Zone

April 27, 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Lesson, food, games and fun!

Regular Meeting of Youth Group

May 3, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Mother or Father must attend, Pizza and Drinks!

Boating and Tubing – weather permitting

May 30, 6:00 – 8:30 pm

More details will follow.

Friday Night after School Party

Watch the church calendar and church bulletins for updates and schedule changes.

four WAYS to GIVE at

First Presbyterian Church

508 2nd Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303
304-744-2333

Visit us at
fpcscwv.org
for more information.



Mobile Giving

Use PayPal, Venmo, or Tithely Apps to give on your mobile device.

You may search for and download these Apps in your APP store.



Online Giving

Visit our church at
www.fpcscwv.org
to use our giving
website directly.



Drop Off or In-Person

Visit our church and drop your donation in the mail slot beside the Education Building doors, drop it off in the church office, or use the offering baskets during worship services.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER ...

Know Who (and Whose) You Are

Actor Kirk Douglas once picked up a hitchhiker. After the man got settled in Douglas's car, he turned to look more closely at the driver. Surprised to recognize the famous man at the wheel, the hitchhiker exclaimed, "Do you know who you are?!"

We would do well to ask ourselves and each other the same thing. Often, we seem to forget — or perhaps we never knew.

Through much of life, we behave as if our identity depends on our occupation, wealth, family line, daily accomplishments or good deeds. But none of these — not even the last one — determines the core of who we are. All that matters is our Creator's opinion, and God loves us with abundant, unconditional love.

Do you know who you are? You are God's beloved child! And so is everyone else. May we live out that knowledge, treating one another as such. —*Heidi Hyland Mann*

Creation Care

Sir Robert Baden-Powell, who founded the Boy Scouts, asked troop members to "leave this world a little better than you found it." For Christians, that aim is rooted in Scripture.

Using a Bible-like parable, biology professor Michael Duncan writes: "Imagine you owned a property and rented it out to tenants for a period of time. Upon move-in, the tenants found the place clean and in perfect working order. As the owner of the property, it is your desire to see that the tenants regard the condition of the property and live in such a way that does not destroy the house. This is the mindset that we should adopt as tenants living on the earth."

Almost five centuries ago, John Calvin encouraged creation care too. "The earth was given to man, with this condition, that he should occupy himself in its cultivation," he wrote. "Let him who possesses a field, so partake of its yearly fruits, that he may not suffer the ground to be injured by his negligence, but let him endeavor to hand it down to posterity as he received it, or even better cultivated. Moreover, that this economy, and this diligence, with respect to those good things which God has given us to enjoy, may flourish among us; let everyone regard himself as the steward of God in all things which he possesses."

"None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience." —*Martin Luther*

"In times of stress, the best thing we can do for each other is to listen with our ears and our hearts and be assured that our questions are just as important as our answers." —*Fred Rogers*



***Mission
Committee
Requests FOOD
for Heart & Hand***

These are items we will be collecting for the food pantry at Heart & Hand this month. Please bring your donations each Sunday and they will be delivered to Heart & Hand!

April 6 Instant Oatmeal and Cereal

April 13: Jiffy Mix

April 20: Macaroni & Cheese

April 27: Spaghetti Pasta and Sauce



Cents-Ability Offering

From the PCUSA website:

"Cents-Ability is one way that families, congregations, and presbyteries can support the battle against hunger and poverty. Every member is invited to contribute a few cents at every meal. Funds are then used to support local hunger ministries, as well as national and international projects through the Presbyterian Hunger Program. The March 9th Cents-Ability offering totaled \$116.00. Thank you for your generosity.

The next offering will be collected Sunday, April 13, 2025. Please start collecting your 5 cents per meal each day.

**NUTURING FAITH IDEAS
from the Presbytery of WV**

Please use these suggested scriptures, questions, and activities to help you explore your faith.

April 6 – Fifth Sunday in Lent: Read John 12:1-8

Mary gave Jesus a costly gift as she anointed his feet with perfume. In this season of Lent, what gift would you offer Jesus to show your love for him? Share with a family member or friend.

April 13 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Today begins Holy Week, when we remember the events between Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to this death on the cross before his resurrection. On Thursday, we celebrate Maundy Thursday, the night when Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment – to love one another. Make a list of ways you can show your love to your family members this week and do so.

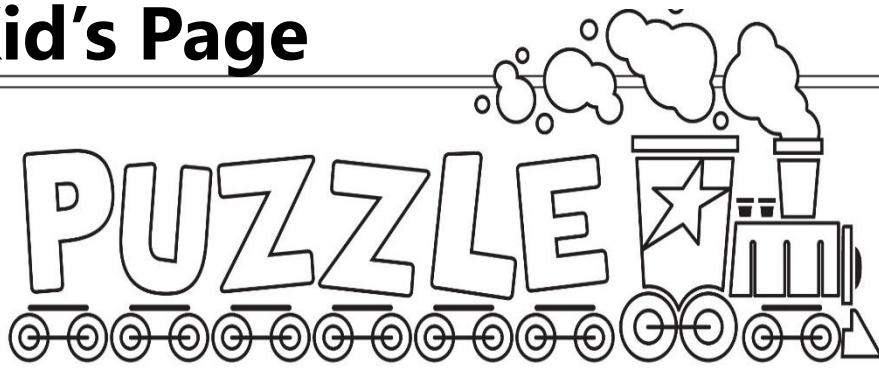
April 20 – Resurrection of the Lord Sunday: Read Luke 24:1-12

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the good news of the angel that Jesus' tomb was empty; Jesus had been raised and was alive! With your friends and family, share the ancient greeting: "Christ is risen!" to which they may respond, "He is risen indeed." Be prepared to share the response if others greet you this way. See how many know the response when you greet them.

April 27 – Second Sunday of Easter: Read John 20:19-31

Thomas couldn't believe what the other disciples told him about having seen the risen Jesus; he needed to see for himself. Jesus returned and Thomas believed. What causes you to doubt? Acknowledge your doubts before Christ and ask him to help you trust and believe.

Kid's Page



OUR EASTER GIFT

Thanks to Easter, what wonderful gift does God give us?

Directions: Start at the given letter, move one space in the direction each arrow points. Write the last letter in each sequence in the spaces provided. Then write those answers in order on the blanks below to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y

1. C → ↓ ↓ _____
2. H → ↑ → _____
3. V ↑ → ↓ _____
4. I ← ← ↑ _____
5. T ↑ ← ↑ _____
6. P ↑ → → ↓ _____
7. D ↓ → ↓ ↓ _____
8. T ↑ ← ↑ ← _____



Praise be to the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us

_____ into a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NIV



Springing to LIFE



New life defines the season
of spring. Make this Easter
craft that symbolizes rebirth.

What you need:

- Brown paper lunch bag
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Jellybeans



What you do:

1. From the bag's bottom, cut two 2-inch circles. Set aside.
2. From the sides, cut two 10-inch circles.
3. Draw a thin spiral on each large circle and cut along the lines. Crinkle spirals gently.
4. Starting at the center, wrap one spiral into a nest. Glue every few inches to hold it.
5. Glue one small circle to the bottom of the nest.
6. Repeat with the other spiral. Fill nests with jellybeans and give to a friend!



The Guys' Weekend

April 25 - 27, 2025

Bluestone Camp & Retreat



Registration and Medical Release forms
are available online.

bluestonecamp.org/guys-weekend

The Registration Fee is \$85 per person for 2 nights and 4 meals.
Dinner for early arrivals on Friday is \$12.

Please register no later than April 22.

Questions?? Call Mark (304) 860-8281 or
email mark@bluestonecamp.org

Join us for our 16th Annual Men's Retreat, a weekend
of reflection, service, worship, work projects to
improve Bluestone, and plenty of laughs!

Things to Note:

- We would welcome the help of anyone who can come up a day early to get started on work projects.
- Youth are encouraged to attend as long as they are accompanied by an adult.



The Youth Council of the Presbytery of West Virginia presents:

The 2025 SPRING YOUTH RETREAT

(for those in grades 6-12 and their adult advisors)

"FRIENDSHIP"



Sunday, April 27, 2025

Coonskin Park, Charleston

(backup site - Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charleston)

Focus: What qualities do you look for in a friend? What makes a friendship last? Why do we need friends? Join us as we explore stories from scripture and pop culture and reflect on what it means to be a friend.

Leadership: This retreat will be led by youth and adult members of the presbytery's Youth Council.

Cost per person is \$30, which includes lunch from Jimmy Johns. The registration deadline is Monday, April 14.

Complete information can be found at www.wypresbytery.org.
Contact Susan Sharp Campbell, susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com or 304-667-9427
with any questions or for more information.

SPRING GETAWAY RETREAT

MAY 2 - 4 @Bluestone

Adults \$85
(ages 12 & older)

Youth \$50
(ages 4 - 11)

Children FREE
(ages 3 & under)

Registration deadline is April 30.

**There'll be plenty of good food
and fellowship... plus**

† trail hike or craft you can do at your leisure †

† study track w/weekend chaplain TBA †

† games, campfires, devotions †

† plenty of time and space to just simply be †

**Join us for a fun and relaxing
low key weekend!**

**Get Registration and Medical Release Forms
online at**

bluestonecamp.org/spring-getaway



Summer 2025

I want to ...

Come to Camp!

Camp Dates:

Week 1: June 15-21

Week 2: June 22-28

Week 3: June 29-July 5

Register Online Now!

bluestonecamp.org

Scholarships are available!

Bring the Whole Family!

Family Camp:

Camp Kick-Off Retreat:
June 13-15

Summer Send-Off Retreat:
July 4-6

Half-Week options are also available
each week of summer camp!

Work at Camp!

Paid Staff Positions:

Resident Counselor
High School Graduate
College Ages 17+

CIT Support Staff
High School Jrs & Srs

Service Support
Kitchen; Lifeguard

Volunteers Welcome Too!
Camp Nurse; Keyleaders; Crafts & More!

Get Some More Info!

Web: bluestonecamp.org

Email: mark@bluestonecamp.org

Phone: call (304) 397-5050 and
leave a voicemail



April 8	Mallory Long
April 10	Sandy Melton
April 11	Mark Clark
April 17	Bennett Little
April 19	Kim Cobb
April 21	Lee Snyder
	Lisa Woo
April 24	Carolyn Titcher
April 30	Chris Cobb

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	2	3	4	5
6 5 th Sunday in Lent	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School (In-Person & Conference Call) 11:00 Worship (In-Person & Online) 1:00 Youth to SKYZONE 7:00 Al-Anon	6:00 pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting	6:30 pm Session Meeting		2:00 pm Presbyterian Women's Meeting		
13 Palm/Passion Sunday	14	15	16	17 Maundy Thursday	18 Good Friday	19
9:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Sunday School (In-Person & Conference Call) 11:00 Worship (In-Person & Online) 7:00 Al-Anon	HOLY WEEK – HOLY WEEK – HOLY WEEK – HOLY WEEK – HOLY WEEK – HOLY WEEK					
20 Resurrection of the Lord	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Sunday School (In-Person & Conference Call) 11:00 Worship (In-Person & Online) 7:00 Al-Anon						
27	28	29	30			
9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Sunday School (In-Person & Conference Call) 11:00 Worship (In-Person & Online) 12:05 Luncheon for All 1:00 Youth Fellowship 7:00 Al-Anon						