

First Things First

April 2018

Renewal

Jesus is risen! Alleluia! What comfort that sweet sentence gives to Christians everywhere. From Palm Sunday to Easter each year we re-run the gamut of emotions from aspiration to anxiety to fear to despair to hope to joy. We try to explain our feelings with speech and song, but in the end, the life, death, resurrection, and reign of Jesus are too marvelous to express in words or art. We are struck with awe and wonder at how God enters our world and our hearts and makes us new.

With a love like that, is any feat impossible? Is there any person beyond the long arm of the Lord? Is there any family broken beyond the Savior's healing? Is there a nation or government past the point of God's return? No, no, a thousand times no. Not the most forlorn soul, the most torn household, the most despotic country, and not this well-seasoned, well-focused beacon of light in Waukesha, our church family.

We live under God's dominion of never-ending regeneration!

The love of the Lord remains forever for those who fear him and his righteousness extends to the children's children of those who keep his covenant and obey his commandments! (Psalms 103:17-18)

We are like the Spring crocuses and daffodils that emerge from safety in the Winter ground. We are the grass that greens again, the trees in foliage, a vector of compassion for a city seeking renewal. We can help restore others and be restored in their midst.

That vision you can't quite make out up ahead? That is our future where we are God's people and we serve God's people in the real world.

May you be renewed by the Spirit who dwells within you,
-Andrew Byshenk, Clerk of the Session

April Calendar

APRIL 1

- 9:00 AM **Easter Breakfast***
Dining Room
- 10:00 AM **Easter Worship**
Communion Sunday
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Easter Egg Hunt***
Dining Room

APRIL 4

- 5:30 PM **Session Meeting**
Office

APRIL 8

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Open Door Meeting***
Oak Room

APRIL 11

- 6:30 PM **Deacon's Meeting**
Oak Room

APRIL 15

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room

APRIL 19

- 8:00 AM **Men's Breakfast**
Dady-Oh's

APRIL 22

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room

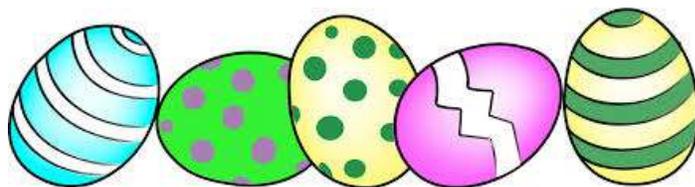
APRIL 29

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room

*see article

Easter Breakfast

Help us greet the risen Lord on Easter morning with great fellowship and good food in the dining room at **9:00 AM on Sunday, April 1, before** worship. Congregational Life will provide croissants, English muffins, butter & jam, cut fruit, yogurt and honey dip, juice, milk, coffee, and tea. You'll make our event complete by bringing along a friend and a lovely strudel, coffee cake, or breakfast casserole.



Easter Egg Hunt

Immediately after worship on **Easter Sunday (April 1)**, kids of all ages can gather in the Oak Room before heading off for an (indoor) egg hunt in the Dining Room.

Have something for the **May** newsletter?
Please send it to

presby1@sbcglobal.net

or drop it in Carol's mailbox by **Sunday, April 15** to have it included. Any items received after the 15th will be included in the June newsletter.

**Please note office hours are
Monday through Thursday,
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**



One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing: Each year we participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering sponsored by the PC(USA). Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with those in need. Your generous gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Please consider contributing when the One Great Hour of Sharing is collected this Easter. More details about the offering will be made during worship and through bulletin inserts.

- 4/9 Sara Winkelmann
- 4/21 Marion Ryan
- 4/21 Buzz Boyd
- 4/21 John Schreiber
- 4/21 Dawn Noska
- 4/23 Marion Davison
- 4/25 Kristi Margis
- 4/25 Penny Goodyear
- 4/26 Ann Stover
- 4/30 Alex DuMez



2018 Per Capita

Per Capita for 2018 in the Presbytery of Milwaukee is \$34.00. Please consider contributing your per capita so that First Presbyterian might use your share elsewhere in the budget. Per Capita is not taken from your regular contributions because it must be designated by you for this specific use. Please note “per capita” in the memo line. Thank you!

Open Door Meeting

We are planning another **Open Door Meeting** on **Sunday, April 8**, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss important steps for the future of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Waukesha. In our most recent Session meeting, we discussed a possible path for our future, and we would like your input. Please come prepared to share your thoughts.

Thank you.
The Session

Thank you!

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

I wanted to say thank you for the care package I received today. I really appreciate you all thinking of me and keeping me in your prayers. I enjoy all of the goodies and snacks, they really do the trick after a long day of studying! Nursing school is going well, I only have a year and a half left before becoming an RN. I hope to see you all soon at church.

Thanks again,
Monique Noska

Session Recap

The session met on March 7, 2018. We identified two Fellowship Events, one for St. Patrick and another for Easter. There was a significant and serious discussion regarding the Pastor search including review of the current applications and options to consider. We agreed to hold another Open Door. We discussed our HELPS support, the Mobile “Feed My Starving Children” Mission event for March 10, and the One Great Hour of Sharing banks. We reviewed our Pulpit Supply and Pastoral Care for March and April and reported on the update to the Register. We discussed maintenance to the building and reviewed the most recent financial reports. We considered other communications options and security during worship.

Presbytery Meeting Recap

The **March 6 Presbytery Meeting** took place at Forest Park Presbyterian in New Berlin. After a business meeting lasting an hour, four panelists spoke on "Risk Taking for the Sake of the Gospel," which was the theme for the meeting. These four (which included Rev. Nicole Farley and Rev. Christian Boyd) had participated in the 2018 NEXT Church (NextChurch.net) national gathering and shared a message of hope and inspiration for moving the PC(USA) into the future. They stressed that building walls always puts Jesus on the other side of the wall. Instead, we need to build bridges, especially to the community around us.

After attendees shared a meal in fellowship, the evening was capped with an unusual, thought-provoking worship service, which involved risk taking on the part of the worship leaders and congregation. After a choral reading of the Parable of the Sower, congregants took Communion at the station they felt best fit their current place in life: the hard path, rocky ground, thorny soil, or fertile ground.

The theme of risk-taking is extremely relevant to our current situation at First Pres. We may be on a hard path right now, but perhaps it leads to fertile ground. Rev. Vi Cross-Dukes, at a recent visit to First Pres, mused that there is another word for 'risk taking' in this context: faith. As First Pres. looks to the future, we must take risks - we must have faith.

P.S. Several attendees, including Rev. Nicole Melara, Rev. Elizabeth McCord, and Rev. Vi Cross-Dukes, sent their greetings and wanted to let us know that they are praying for First Presbyterian.

Elm Grove K Kiwanis Club

The Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club is seeking retired men and women to become new members. The club is committed to community service in the local area, with emphasis on activities that benefit children. For more information see the club's website at kiwaniselmgrove.org or email kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com.

HELPS INTERNATIONAL

is a well established organization throughout the world bringing medical and other services to those in need. I traveled to Guatemala a couple years ago, to be part of a Mission effort, whose goal was to create a safer living environment for children and families by installing well ventilated stoves and water filtration systems. We also visited an elementary school, where some of the community children attended school. The kids were excited that we were there, and happy to be in school. Many others can not go to school because they can't afford it. It occurred to me that it might be fun for First Church to sponsor a child, so last week I spoke about a fund raising effort that I'm calling "Educate a Child". We'll be raising funds from now until the end of the year so that we can sponsor a child in 2019. They would be most grateful for your help. In a country where more than half the population lives below the poverty line, the barriers kid face to make it into classrooms are extremely high. Today 2 million children in Guatemala, a majority of them girls, don't attend school. Sixty percent of the indigenous population cannot read or write and most children will only receive four years of formal education. In response to the education crisis in the village of Santa Avelina, lets help these kids master the necessary skills that will help to lead them out of poverty. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and in the memo line include the words "Educate a Child". Thank you.

~Barb Klemp, Elder for Mission.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

The volunteers who rang bells for the Salvation Army raised \$1,111.00 for the cause. Thank you to Jim Ziegler, Katie Ebel, Ann Stover, Bob Pugh, Dean Larson, Ella Holberg, Joan Schmidt, Earl Davison, and Marion Davison.