



PresbyPress

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

April, 2021

Dear Friends and Members of First Presbyterian Church,

As I write this, it is Holy Week. It's a time of reflecting on Jesus' last week of human life. For me, it is a sad and difficult week. Each year I read the stories of Jesus' arrest, torture, and murder during Holy Week. Each year I am reminded that the most perfect person was killed for doing God's will, and it pains me to my core. I think about Jesus eating Passover with his disciples, his closest friends, knowing this was probably his last meal with them. His heart must have ached. I think about his prayer in the garden, and his anguish about what he faced. His friends fell asleep while he wept and prayed. Even those who loved him, didn't understand and couldn't suffer with him as he prepared to die. They didn't understand the gravity of those moments. Jesus had to face it alone.

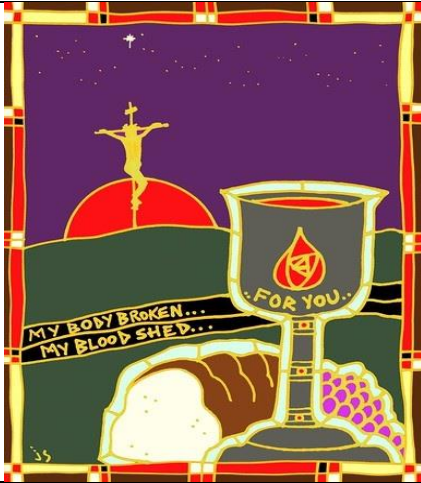
This year, I think about to the thousands of people who lovingly cared for the COVID sick, who then caught the disease and died because they were living out God's will. They, like Jesus, gave their lives that others might live. It's been a year of sacrifice on the part of many. I think about all the COVID patients who, like Jesus were alone in their own approach to death, their loved ones not being allowed in the hospitals. I think about how many of us couldn't see our loved ones and prayed that we would survive the year so that we could be with each other in the future. Yet all of us lost loved ones this year, those who we couldn't see and now we can't see, for they are not here anymore. Those of us who have had loved ones die, each year on the anniversary of their death, we remember and we grieve. Once again, we feel the pain of our loss.

This is Holy Week, a time to remember and mourn. Our mourning will not last much longer though. Easter is almost here. We've almost made it through our "winter of discontent."

Easter is almost here. The great news of Jesus Christ is that God doesn't leave us in the tomb or in our mourning. God offers us resurrection, new life. I pray that God will give you a meaningful Holy Week, and help you celebrate the new life God offers in Jesus' resurrection.

Happy Easter!

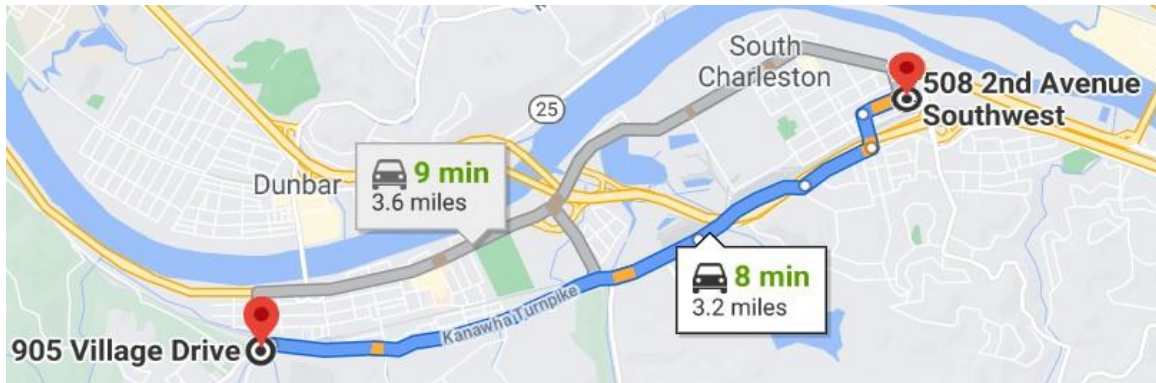
Pastor Sharon



Maundy Thursday Worship

7:00 pm April 1, 2021

This joint worship service will be held at Rock Lake Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm on Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021. You may also view the service on our church website: fprscwv.org or on our Facebook: page: First Presbyterian Church, South Charleston, WV.



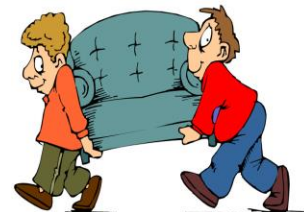
2 Churches – 1 Pastor

Church members will soon receive a letter from our **Sharing Committee** with an update of their work with Rock Lake Presbyterian Church on negotiations to share a pastor. We hope you will prayerfully consider how you can support their efforts.

---The Sharing Committee: Cheryl Eary, Bob Lilly, and Tom Titus

Volunteers Needed!!

Your Furniture Mission is once again working with Heart & Hand to organize pickups for this summer. Other participating churches are Grace Nazarene, First Nazarene, Blesses Sacrament, First Baptist, and First Methodist. Additional churches will be invited to work with us on this worthwhile mission.



We need labor and drivers for Saturdays. One does not need to be a member of First Presby (or any church) to participate. Women are encouraged to volunteer. We are open to paying a small amount, if you know anyone interested. This is a last resort if we are unable to find enough volunteers. Should you or anyone you know be interested, please let me know. We are slowly organizing with anticipation of starting in late May. My cell number is 304-206-5930. Your assistance is appreciated, Tom Titus.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Contributions support Disaster Relief, Self-development of People, & Hunger

(Offerings received throughout Lent, dedicated on Easter Sunday, April 4)

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, 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.

Three Ways to Contribute to OGHS:

1. Mail a check to the church, indicating "OGHS" on the memo line
2. Use our online giving portal on fpcscwv.org to make a payment by credit card or direct withdrawal from your bank account
3. Drop off a cash contribution in the mail slot at the church in an envelope clearly marked with your name and "OGHS 2021."



An Easter Prayer

From the grave's depths,
Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged,
breaking the hold of sin, death
and hell, that those who trust in
you might share in your
righteousness, life and beloved community with
God the Father and all God's children.

We bow in awe before your majesty, giving
thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to
us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within
us, may we share the astonishing news of your
resurrection with others, that they also may know
your saving grace. Amen.



April 8	Mallory Long
April 10	Sandra Melton
April 11	Mark Clark
April 17	Bennett Little
April 19	Kim Cobb
April 21	Lee Snyder
April 26	Bobbie Walker
April 28	Sharon Gearing
April 30	Chris Cobb



Presbyterian Women's News

The Presbyterian Women sent flowers to Mickey Rector in celebration of her 100th birthday on March 20. We miss her, love her and wanted her to know that we wanted to share in her celebration.

Presbyterian Women have been keeping in touch with each other and hope to resume our circle meetings/activities in the near future. We appreciate that Becky Nelson has been extremely dedicated by furnishing us with our Bible study each month.

--Joan Eads, PW Moderator

Tidbits from the Creative Tech Team

BY CHERYL EARY

This is the Livestream Team reaction that you don't see on camera!!

Church live steam goes down for 1 second
Tech team:



The livestream team is working diligently to learn the new equipment that will streamline what we will be doing with the sound and audio visual during church services. Sacred AV is building a work station table for us to be able set up our new equipment. The livestream team will be moving to the room where the sound system is located very soon. The team is very much still in the training mode. We appreciate everyone's support of our transitioning and your feedback.

In the past month have we had over 4000 thru plays of our livestream videos. We have had 291 new visits to the church's website. We are gaining more faithful followers each week in watching our services. If you have any questions or feedback to the creative tech team please let us know.

The Session accepted our Creative Tech and Communication Committees' purpose statement and responsibilities into the Session Manual. Our committee is committed to bring glory to God and serve in a capacity to further the Gospel through the new technology that is available to us. We thank God for providing the funds to be able to increase the church's ministry.

Accounts of Jesus' Resurrection in the Four Gospels

<p>Matthew 28:1-10</p> <p>After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, <u>Mary Magdalene</u> and the other <u>Mary</u> went to see the tomb. And 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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 <u>Simon Peter</u> and the other disciple, 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.</p> <p>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</p> <p><i>Rumor of plot to steal body</i> <i>Great Commission (go and make disciples, baptizing, teaching)</i></p>	<p>Mark 16:9-20</p> <p><i>Shorter ending (proclamation)</i> <i>Longer ending (appearances, signs and wonders)</i></p>	<p>Luke 24:13-53</p> <p><i>Emmous road (breaking bread)</i> <i>Jerusalem (eating fish)</i> <i>Ascension at Bethany</i></p>	<p>John 20:19-21:25</p> <p><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>

Other Bible Passages Related to Resurrection

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

John 11:21-27

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: ... "We are witnesses to all that [Jesus] did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Romans 6:3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:12-22

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

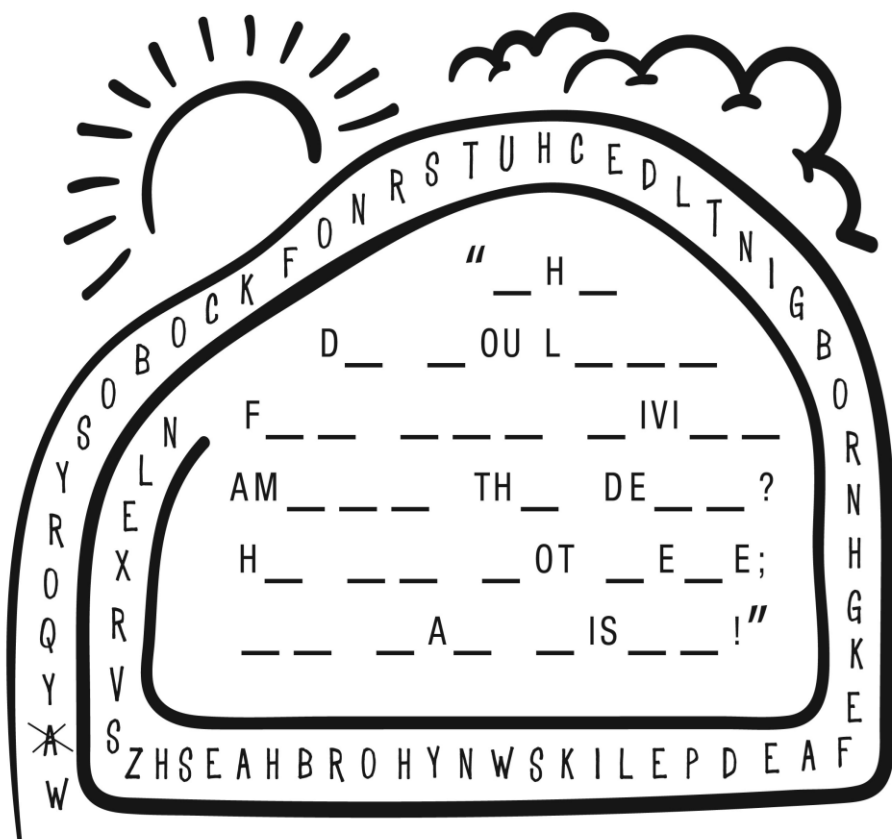
And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."



message

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV



The hidden surprise in these sweet rolls hints at the reason behind Easter's joy.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 10 uncooked frozen rolls, thawed
- 10 large marshmallows
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Grease a round baking dish. Sprinkle pecans on the bottom.
2. Flatten each roll. Place a marshmallow in the center, wrap dough around it and pinch edges together.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each roll into melted butter and coat with cinnamon-sugar. Place in pan, seam side down.
4. Sprinkle brown sugar and remaining butter over rolls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise 30 minutes.
5. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan.
6. As you bite into a roll, you'll see the marshmallow has melted, leaving an empty center — just like Jesus' empty tomb!

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV



Believing In...

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it's more about believing in someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn't have to know the precise roads to Grandma's house; he only needs to believe *in* his parents and their ability and desire to get him there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief *in* the risen Christ transform and empower us. In the words of Madeleine L'Engle (*The Rock That Is Higher*): "The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid."

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Please Note: Our worship services are available on our Facebook Page each Sunday morning at 11:00 am. We hope you will join us!				Maundy Thursday 1 7:00 Joint Service at Rock Lake Presby and Facebook	Good Friday 2	3
Easter Sunday 4 9:30 Sunday School Conference Call 11:00 Online Worship 7:00 Al-Anon	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:30 Sunday School Conference Call 11:00 Online Worship 7:00 Al-Anon	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:30 Sunday School Conference Call 11:00 Online Worship 7:00 Al-Anon	19	20 6:00 Session Meeting	21	22	23	24
25 9:30 Sunday School Conference Call 11:00 Online Worship 7:00 Al-Anon	26	27	28	29	30	May 1 Friends of Ft Liberté Board Meeting 9:00 am