



Pastor Message
Ellen Gurnon

It is more important than ever that we remember and act out this truth. Even while physically separated from one another, we can have connection and community – we just have to work harder to make it happen.

Westminster Chimes

April 2020

WE ARE THE CHURCH!

The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple;

The church is not a resting place; the church is the people!

I am the church. You are the church.

We are the church together.

All who follow Jesus,

All around the world.

Yes! We're the church together.

If you grew up going to church, you may remember this little song, along with the hand motions.

Already we've missed three weeks of in-person worship, and we're looking at another month at least. In response to extended federal guidelines, **both Sessions have voted to cancel worship through the end of April.**

It's hard and it may feel like the church is closed. But it is only the building that is closed to group activities. **THE CHURCH IS NOT CLOSED. WE ARE THE CHURCH!**

I am so grateful to all of you who are learning new technology and faithfully participating in our online worship services. I am more grateful than words can say for Jonathan Patterson and his expertise in producing the online service (so that I don't have to learn too much new technology)!

I am grateful to those who are keeping in touch with others in the congregation. I am grateful for those who worked to move hundreds of sack lunches to St. James AME Church so that our homeless friends can still be fed. I am grateful to those who prepared the basement at Westminster and those who moved hundreds of dresses for the Semo Prom Mothers project from Jackson. I am grateful for our cleaning service at First Presbyterian and for Lynn at Westminster for being extra vigilant in cleaning and disinfecting our spaces. And I am grateful for Session members who continue to "meet" by email and make important decisions for our continuing ministry and the health of our members.

Especially as we approach Holy Week and Easter, we need to remember that suffering and death are not the end of the story. RESURRECTION HAPPENS even in the loneliness of the tomb, even in the darkest hours. For the faithful, every Sunday is a little Easter. We will celebrate the resurrection like never before when we are back together again.

Until then, please continue to watch your email for additional information about worship services and plans for communion.

Health and peace,

Ellen

LECTIONARY READINGS

HOLY WEEK

April 5:
Palm/Passion Sunday—Sixth Sunday in Lent
Matthew 21:1–11 Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 Liturgy of
the Passion Isaiah 50:4–9a Psalm 31:9–16
Philippians 2:5–11 Matthew 26:14–27:66 or
Matthew 27:11–54

April 6:
Monday of Holy Week
Isaiah 42:1–9 Psalm 36:5–11 Hebrews 9:11–15
John 12:1–11

April 7:
Tuesday of Holy Week
Isaiah 49:1–7 Psalm 71:1–14 1 Corinthians 1:18–
31 John 12:20–36

April 8:
Wednesday of Holy Week
Isaiah 50:4–9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1–3 John
13:21–32

April 9:
Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1–4 [5–10] 11–14 Psalm 116:1–2, 12–
19 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 John 13:1–17, 31b–35

April 10:
Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13–53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16–25
or Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9 John 18:1–19:42

April 11:
Easter Vigil
Exodus 14:10–31; 15:20–21 Exodus 15:1b–13, 17–
18 Baruch 3:9–15, 32–4:4

April 12:
Resurrection of the Lord ~ Easter
Sunday
Acts 10:34–43 or Jeremiah 31:1–6 Psalm 118:1–2,
14–24 Colossians 3:1–4 or Acts 10:34–43 John
20:1–18 or Matthew 28:1–10

April 19:
Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22–32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3–9 John
20:19–31

April 26:
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:36–41 Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 1 Peter 1:17–
23 Luke 24:13–35

Session Members 2020

- Velda Price (Clerk)
- Bill Tucker (Worship)
- Gerald Campbell (Finance)
- Danna Cotner (Missions)
- Charlene Christian (Outreach)
- Allen Lane (Buildings & Grounds)
- Jim Dale (Pastoral Care)
- Jeanie Dale (Christian Life)



Holy Communion

While we are all observing responsible social distancing, you are invited to attend virtual worship services hosted through First Presbyterian's YouTube channel.

On both April 5th, as well as on April 9th ~ Maundy Thursday, all are encouraged to celebrate Holy Communion in your homes as prompted during those live broadcast services. Feel free to contact

the church with any questions on how to access the channel.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Received during the season of Lent, One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

- * **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.
- * **Presbyterian Hunger Program** takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.
- * **Self-Development of People** invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

Please make checks out to the church and write OGHS in the memo.
Thanks!

P.S. ~ Please don't forget your regular offerings. You are welcome to mail them to the church, call Lynn ahead of time and she will even meet you on the end of the walk to pick it up while you remain in

your car. OR – If you are uncomfortable getting out, Cathy Shroeder has encouraged calls and she will come to you and pick up your pledge How great is that???



It's not too late! Garden plots still available!

According to the Farmer's Almanac last frost dates, here are some suggested planting dates for seedlings or transplants in our zone:

Tomatoes:	April 23 rd – May 14 th
Sweet Potatoes:	April 30 th – May 21 st
Squash:	April 30 th – May 21 st
Lettuce:	April 2 nd – April 30 th
Cucumbers:	April 30 th – May 21 st
Cauliflower:	March 19 th – April 2 nd
Broccoli:	March 26 th – April 16 th
Bell Peppers:	April 30 th – May 21 st

Our Community Garden is taking shape once again and we are hopeful to be able to share our abundance with others in need. We have several new comers to the garden this year and Cottonwood kids have already been out there sowing spinach and lettuce. COME JOIN THE FUN! There's enough space to remain at a safe social distance while simultaneously soaking up good ole vitamin D!





CALENDAR

Westminster Members and Friends,

Due to the Covid 19 Virus and recommended social distancing requirements, the Session has made the decision to postpone the re-opening of the church for public gatherings until Sunday May the 3rd. This was an emotionally hard decision, but a logical one. We just can't risk anyone's health during this precarious time.

In the meantime, we will be livestreaming Sunday services at 10:45 a.m.. These can be found on the First Presbyterian webpage at www.firstpccape.org/sermons.

Starting this week, all streaming services will be hosted on the First Presbyterian Church's Youtube Channel. Search this link ([FPC Cape Youtube Channel](#)) and click the subscribe button to be kept abreast of all livestream sermons and digital events.



April 5 Palm Sunday
Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

st Communion celebrated
Partake of elements at home.

April 9 Livestream Maundy Thursday
Communion celebrated
Time TBA

April 12



Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

April 19 Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

April 26 Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.



- April 7 Wavis Jordon
- April 11 Dan Cotner
- April 19 Dana Cotner
- April 30 Trena Novak



Some suggestions for how to celebrate differently, but meaningfully this year.....

1:Study the Passover and Other Old Testament Prophecies about Easter

[Exodus 12](#) details the last plague on Pharaoh and the Egyptians. It was the Angel of Death. The firstborn son of every household and every animal would die. But God's people were spared because they sacrificed a lamb and brushed its blood on their doorposts.

Every detail of the stories of Abraham and Isaac, and the release of the Israelites from Egyptian captivity, has a parallel in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Discuss what you discover over dinner, or on a video call if you're separated. Your family's faith will deepen as you realize exactly how much God planned ahead for Easter Sunday morning.

2:Journal

Begin a new section in your journal and title it, "What the Resurrection Means to Me."

Include at least one bullet point thought each day. Begin a list of Bible verses teaching about the resurrection. Note the reference for each.

If one seems particularly meaningful to you, write the verse on a sticky note and post it where you can see it often—maybe on your bathroom mirror.

Read and try to memorize it while you wash your hands. If you don't normally write in a journal, this is a good time to begin the practice.

3:Rest

The way we celebrate Easter may be different this year, but the occasion won't be blotted out

The key is our attitudes.

When we maintain our perspective that Jesus is in control, and trust Him for our daily needs, it's much easier to think in a glass-half-full kind of way.

Our stress will fall away, and we can rest our minds while we trust in the One who conquered death and rose again.

If Jesus conquered the grave, surely he can conquer an earthly sickness. Not only will Easter be a celebration to ground us in what is most important, but it deserves our attention, no matter what is going on around us. As long as we are intentional, this season can still be one of deep transformation and praise. Let's heed [Colossians 3:2](#), "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things," and not let COVID-19 take our eyes off our amazing savior Jesus Christ.

Excerpts taken from Crosswalk article:
7 Ways to Stop COVID-19 from Overshadowing Easter

- **Kathryn Graves** Crosswalk Contributing Writer