



April 2023



The Loveletter

Sharing the Love and Joy of Christ

Then Jesus said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23

Many times we hear these words that Jesus says to us all and focus on either the part that says "let them deny themselves" or the part that says "take up their cross." Both parts are essential for discipleship. Yet, I think that there's another important word that is often overlooked: Daily. Do we practice the essentials of our faith daily? Do we wake up each morning and ask God to help us to deny selfish ways and to follow Jesus in all that we do for that day?

Adam Hamilton, in his book that we are studying this Lent, *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*, challenges us to start each day on our knees or in some prayerful posture and say to God, "Here I am, Lord, do with me whatever you want." Such a practice helps us to understand that discipleship is shaped by our daily practices. I appreciate Hamilton's easy to model suggestions about the practices of discipleship. He offers two fists and one is clenched and represents the 5 essential practices as a community. Together, we worship & pray, study, serve, give, and share. The other fist, with five fingers spread wide, represents the ways we undertake those practices as individuals. We can pray 5 times a day. We read and study 5 verses of Scripture a week or even 5 chapters. We seek to engage in 5 acts of kindness each week. We practice generosity as a rhythm of our lives, seeking to add 5 acts of special generosity a month. And we seek to share our faith with 5 people in a year.

Some days are always better than others when it comes to living into our practices of discipleship and denying our selfish ways and picking up our crosses to follow Jesus. Thank God that each morning we wake up, we are given new mercies and grace, new hope, and a new calling. I pray that we have all learned something from considering these practices and not just learned something, but that we have been able to incorporate concrete practices in our daily lives that help us to walk more closely with God. Even though the season of Lent is drawing to a close, there are other opportunities to continue to learn and grow with these practices. Holy Week is a time to deepen our focus on Christ and all he does for us. We might focus on one of these 5 essential practices for each day of Holy Week, or seek to live into all 5 every day. For the Easter season, we might seek to rejoice in the resurrection by living into lives that are made new in Christ. Every day that is given to us, we can live into God's call to walk more closely with our Savior.

Peace,

Pastor Leigh



HOLY WEEK

April 2 Palm Sunday Worship at 11:00 AM

April 6 Maundy Thursday Worship at 6:30 PM

April 7 Good Friday joint service with the Church of Ascension & Heritage Baptist at Church of the Ascension at 12:15 PM

April 9 Easter Sunday at 11:00 AM

New Study in the Adult Cornerstone Class

Beginning 4/16. The title of our next study is Remembering the Forgotten God by Francis Chan, which is about the Holy Spirit in our lives. This is an interactive workbook series that will last 7 sessions. As a class we will also use the accompanying DVD and we will have weekly worksheet handouts as a framework for our discussions. The paperback workbook can be purchased online, if you wish, new or used, or in a kindle version, through Amazon, christianbook.com or thriftbooks.com.

Please join us!



KICK HUNGER IN THE CAN

Food drive for Friendship Table continues. Shopping carts will be parked at the front and back entrance to Sanctuary for your donations. Items needed: Iced Tea Mix; Manwich or Sloppy Joe sauce in cans, Baked beans, canned fruit; peaches, pears, individual fruit cups, bags of cookies, and green beans. This is just some of the needs we know we have. Please make sure all items are in date. Again we thank you for your generosity.

Those remembered or honored with Easter Flowers:



In memory of Nancy and Herbert Stessin

In memory of Elegia and Ben Dundee

In memory of Annie and Wade Franklin

By Betty and David Dundee

In memory of loved ones

By Suzanne Collins

In memory of James Donald Harper

By Mina Harper

In honor of Garey Wilkins

In memory of Dr. & Mrs. Ross Whatley

By Ross and Charlotte Whatley

In memory of Dr. Don Goolsby

By Joe and Carolyn Noble

In honor of Anne Sims

By Laurie McAfee

In honor of Pastor Leigh Jones

By Faith Burke

In memory of Jean Daugherty

By Norman Daugherty



Ladies Night Out

At Mule House Pizza

April 20th 6:30 – 8:00pm

All ladies are welcome!



FPC Book Club

April 20 at 10:30am

Cornerstone Room

The book selection this month is Michele Gable's

The Lipstick Bureau. Come join us.

Everyone is welcome.

From the Session:

The following are the highlights from the 3/21/2023 Session Meeting:

1. Elizabeth Watanabe was Approved as a new member by Transfer of Letter.
2. A Love Offering for Pam Radford who is retiring was Approved.
3. A Good Friday Service on 4/7/2023 at 12:15 PM in partnership with the Episcopal Church was Approved.
4. An Interim Director of Music and Organist Search Committee Task Force was appointed.
5. A Men's Breakfast is planned for 4/2/2023 at 9:00 AM.
6. The Congregational Life Committee is planning a Pot Luck Lunch in May.
7. An Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for 3/26/2023.
8. Vacation Bible School this year is scheduled for 7/10-14.
9. The FPC Annual Meeting on 5/21/2023 with Pot Luck Lunch was approved.

A Message From Our Session

At their February meeting, the Session approved the budget for the year of 2023. As you are likely aware, the budget this year has presented many conflicting emotions for us all. We give thanks and celebrate the generosity of this congregation's giving. Moved by the Spirit and growing in faith, our congregation's giving increased notably from last year. We have both an increase in giving units and an increase in giving which reflects the depth of growth and faith in this congregation. However, in the past two years, we have mourned the loss of a number of saints and pillars in this congregation, whose giving exceeded \$250,000.

As a result, the Session has had to prayerfully consider our structure, needs, and the future. Our faith, heritage, and polity provides us with the steps to take in order to do just that. Our Book of Order states that the Session shall prepare and adopt a budget (G.3.0205) and the Session accomplishes that through empowering its committees to make recommendations to the Session regarding the matters of the budget. Our Stewardship and Finance committee determined that each committee must reduce their respective budgets by 20%. Each committee met and prayed about these issues and returned recommendations to the Stewardship and Finance Committee. This committee then prayerfully presented recommendations to the Session.

The Session then, with prayer, humility, and faith, made decisions about these recommendations. A portion of those recommendations included changing the structure of some of the staff positions in the church. Our Book of Order specifically gives the responsibility of managing the structure of the staff and employing the staff to the Session (G-3.0201). Again, the Session accomplishes that through the work of committees and their recommendations. Upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and the endorsement of Stewardship and Finance, the Session adopted a budget which makes the position of Sexton a half-time position with full medical benefits and the position of Director of Music/Organist a 3/5 time position with full pension benefits.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Mark Bridges, our Stewardship and Finance Chair; Peter Olson our Personnel/Stewardship & Finance Elder; or me. I encourage you to reach out to these individuals rather than seeking information from other sources. Going directly to our leaders for information ensures that you receive accurate information and have the opportunity to pray with and for our congregation and especially our leaders. It also ensures that we are doing everything we can to build up and maintain the unity of the body of Christ in this community.

As a Session we will continue, as always, to pray for our community and to ask for the Spirit to be our guide and our sustainer. We pray for the power and presence of our Savior to fill our hearts and that we may proclaim Christ's love and live as his hands and feet in this community and beyond.

Update from the Worship Committee Regarding Our Music Ministry

As you may be aware, Pam Radford is retiring as our FPC organist and director of music ministries, effective April 9. We give thanks for Pam's ministry with us and for the many ways her incredible gifts have touched us all through her worship leadership. The Session has approved an opportunity for any who wish to contribute to a thank you offering for Pam. You may do so by writing a check or offering cash in an envelope or giving online. Please make sure to designate the offering "thank you gift for Pam."

In an ongoing effort to be open and transparent and to ensure that accurate information is available, we are sharing with you the tentative process and timeline for the next several months. As always, we encourage anyone who has questions about any aspects of this process to direct them to the Session, whose leadership areas are noted below.

- An interim task force, composed of Beth Gaines, Leigh Jones, Karen Russell, and Robert Sims, and has begun meeting this week to initiate conversations with possible interims for choir and hand bell director, and organist or accompanist. That task force, pursuant to the Book of Order, will take recommendations to the Personnel Committee which will then make a recommendation to the Session, as the Session makes all employment decisions regarding church staff. The Session will then make a decision regarding the hiring of any new employees.

- Supply accompanists will play in worship on April 16 and April 23.

- Target date: week of April 24 for interim(s) to begin work at FPC, with choir rehearsal on Wednesday, April 26, and first Sunday in worship April 30.

- After interim(s) is/are in place, a search committee composed of members from the worship committee, the personnel committee, church staff, the choir and bell choir, and the congregation at large, will be formed to discern our congregation's needs and resources and to begin searching for permanent music staff. This may be one staff person or more than one person. This will include staff who will support our continued tradition of excellence in music in worship, including organ music.

Target date of having new permanent music staff member(s) on board by August 13, 2023.

These dates are tentative and are dependent upon our prayers, our conversations within this community, and some factors that are beyond our control. But our confidence is in Jesus Christ.

Please join us as we continue to pray for our congregation, for Pam and her family, for our music ministry, and for the person or persons that God is calling to serve next with us in music ministry.

The music ministry at FPC is an important and valued part of our worship life together, and it is important to us that it continues to be a vibrant and active ministry. Change can be challenging and stressful, but it is also an opportunity for growth and for exciting new beginnings.

Jimmy Cline (HOC) Suzanne Collins (W) J. Mark Bridges (SF)
Kathy Farnon (CL) Jean Gilliland (FD) Betty F. Dundee (M)
Beth Gaines (W) Peter Olson (SF, P) Rich C. Gaffoglio (PS, W)
Mary Gilreath (Proper) Scott Panter (SF) Paul T. Green (Proper, SF)
Robert Sims (P)
Meredith Gaines (M)

Key:

HOC - Hands of Christ
CL - Congregational Life
W - Worship
CC - Congregational Care
P - Personnel

M - Mission
FD - Faith Development
SF - Stewardship & Finance
Proper - Properties
PS - Preschool



Thank you for your support of our Easter Egg Hunts!

Thank you to all of our volunteers and those who donated candy and small toys to help with our Easter Egg Hunts. The kids had a lot of fun at each of the events.



College/Young Adult Care Packages

If you have a college student, young adult, or a child in the military please send their address to andrea@cartersvillepres.org. The youth are going to put together Care Packages in April.

If you would like to donate to the packages, please check out our [Amazon Wish List](#) or send in donations or gift cards.



VBS Save the Date & Volunteers Needed

VBS is coming to FPC this Summer!

July 10-14, 9 a.m. until noon

VBS is open to all children in our community, and it is a time for kids to hear God's Message, deepen their faith, enjoy songs, create crafts, and have a wonderful week.

Volunteers with all abilities are needed: teachers, snack coordinators, set builders, guides for our children, game leaders, decorators, etc. There is a place for everyone at VBS! If you want to volunteer for VBS, contact andrea@cartersvillepres.org.



April & May Youth Group Calendar

April 2 – Palm Sunday

April 6 – Maundy Thursday Worship (6:30)

April 7 – Good Friday Worship (12:15 at Ascension)

April 9 – Easter Sunday (No Sunday School for Children & Youth)

April 16 – Youth Group + Dinner (4-6:30)

April 23 – Youth Sunday (9:30-noon)

April 30 – Yard Work Day

May 7 – Confirmation Sunday

May 7 – Youth Group + Dinner (4-6:30)

May 21 – Senior Recognition Sunday



MONTREAT
CONFERENCE CENTER

Montreat Youth Conference June 11-17, 2023
\$100 Deposit due by March 12th

- Check out [Montreat Youth Conferences](#) for more information
- Total cost of the trip will depend on housing costs (GA Lodge is now using a management company, and an invoice has not been sent yet), but it will be a minimum of \$450/participant for the conference, food, and housing.
- Scholarships are available – Just ask Pastor Leigh or Andrea
- Adults - If you are prayerfully considering being a chaperone, please reach out to Andrea to set up a meeting to go over expectations of being an adult chaperone on a youth trip.

Email or text Andrea to register

To pay the deposit: Send a check to the office or pay online – Memo: Montreat (child's name)

www.cartersvillepres.org/give/

If you have any questions, contact andrea@cartersvillepres.org - 678-910-6026



First Presbyterian Pre-School

Lindsay Scoggins ~ Director

770-382-0755 Lindsay@cartersvillepres.org



Pictured Above: Our PreK student, Mason Morrow, delights in finding gold coins the leprechaun left while his class went to music class! The children had so much fun celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

It is hard to believe it is already April! We have 5 weeks of school left after Spring Break! This month, our students will take Spring pictures, a herpetologist will visit bringing with him some reptiles to share with the preschool, and we will celebrate our amazing staff during Teacher Appreciation Week! We currently have 99 students registered for next school year! We have availability in our Pre- K/4-year-old classes. If you know anyone interested in attending our preschool, please have them call or email me.

Blessings, Lindsay

April Dates to Remember

Spring Break
No School April 3 - 7

Spring Pictures
April 11 and 12

Herpetologist Visit
April 21

Teacher Appreciation Week
April 24 - 28

Pictured Below: Ms. April, Jacob Sadler, and students watch with anticipation as we drop eggs from the Gathering Space balcony for our annual Egg Drop!



APRIL BIBLE
VERSE:

*He is not here:
He has risen!
Luke 24:6-7*



April 2023

Hands of Christ After School Program



Hands of Christ will celebrate our dedicated and hard-working staff during the week of May 8th-12th. Our amazing staff of teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, and kitchen staff help us to fulfill our mission to the students and their families. They are the hands and feet of Christ!



It takes a big
heart
to help shape
little
minds.



Summer Camp is Coming Soon!

May 30-June 2 *It's a Small World* with field trip to World of Coke
June 5-9 *Knights, Castles, and Princesses* with field trip to Medieval Times and Bounce Castle/Water Day



April Birthdays

1	Martha Campbell	21	Margaretta Shaw
2	Nan Collier	21	Randy Ellis
3	Joan Green	21	Sam Bailey
5	LaRue Whitehead	23	Jessica Gardner
5	Patty Richardson	28	Sharon Ellis
5	Jake Noble	28	Harrison Paul
6	Betty Gilbert	28	Alice Hembree
8	Jimmy Cline	30	Tom Nebergall
8	Perry Rentz		
9	Denise Kennedy		
12	Will Pruitt		
13	Norman Daugherty		
16	Mason Cline		
16	Mya Shields		
17	David Dundee		
18	Billy Noble		
18	Loveline Itoe		
19	Jean Gilliland		
20	Jacob Brush		



In April We Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Jean Dudley, Peyton Miller (ASP), Priscilla Milton (ASP), Rosemary Purdy (Preschool), Carol Ries (Preschool)

Officers: Meredith Gaines (Session), Molly Collins (Diaconate)

Ministries: Congregational Life

Families: April 1-7: Perry and Kim Rentz (Anna, Laura), Richard Gurley, Rick and Patty Richardson, Jean Robinson, Paxton Robinson

April 8-14: Karen Rodgers, Georgie and Ashton Russell, Paxton Russell, Kyle and Karen Russell

April 15-21: Margaretta Shaw, Renee Shields (Grace, Mya, Christopher), Rick and Sarah Shireman, Betty Sime, Matt and Sheilah Simons

April 22-30: Elise Sims, Erin Sims, Robert and Cindy Sims, Joyce Smith, Nona Smith

First Presbyterian Church

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Contact

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Pam Radford, director of music

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Andrea Roche, children & youth director

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Becky Ferguson, ministry assistant

becky@cartersvillepres.org

Angie Hood, church administrator

angie@cartersvillepres.org

Lindsay Scoggins, preschool director

lindsay@cartersvillepres.org

Jean Dudley, after school program director

jean@cartersvillepres.org

April Calendar

April 5, 12, 19, 26

11:30am - Wednesday Prayer Group/Prayer Room

April 2 - Palm Sunday

9:00am - Men's Breakfast

April 3 - 7

Preschool & HOC ASP Spring Break

April 4

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

April 6 - Maundy Thursday

10:30am - Ladies Bible Study

6:30pm - Maundy Thursday Service

April 7 - Good Friday

Church Office Closed

12:15pm - Good Friday joint service w/Church of the Ascension

& Heritage Baptist @ Church of the Ascension

April 9 - Easter Sunday

11:00am - Worship in Sanctuary

April 10

Church Office Closed

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

April 11

7:00pm - Faith Development Committee Meeting

April 13

7:00pm - 12 Women of the Bible Study

April 17

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

April 18

7:00pm - Session Meeting

April 20

10:30am - FPC Book Club

6:30pm - Ladies Night Out @ Mule House
Pizza

April 23 - Youth Sunday

April 24

7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting

