



April 2024

The care, feeding, and tending of God's people

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. (John 21:15-17)

Sometimes, the season of Easter can be a let down. We have gone through the profound days of Holy Week and the joy of Easter. For many of us, we will also have gone through Spring Break after Easter! So what is next? There's an entire season of Easter that is next, but what are we to do in this season? The last Scripture lesson for our Lenten study on Peter's life offers us some insights to consider.

This section from John's Gospel recounts the story of one of Jesus' post resurrection appearances. In this encounter, Jesus makes a point to remind Peter of both God's grace and God's call. In spite of Peter's stumbles, his wandering, and his wrongs, Jesus trusts, calls, and sends Peter, as he does us all. How will we respond?

This Easter season is an opportunity to pray about, consider, and talk about how and where Jesus is calling and sending us? What does that look like in our lives and in the congregation's life in this season? Jesus offers some insights with the very words he uses.

Three times Jesus commands (it is an imperative) Peter to care for the people of God. Twice he uses the word, "feed," and once "tend" to describe the shape that care should take. The Greek word, though, has additional nuances. The word for food means to nourish spiritually and the word for tend means to act as shepherd, to guard or guide.

In this season of Easter how can we spiritually nourish God's people? How can we shepherd, guard, or guide those who are lost or who need care? These are not tasks that are assigned only to our Elders or Deacons, even though they do have special responsibilities in that regard. It is a call and a command to all disciples.

This Easter season, how can we all care for God's people? I invite each of us and all of us to pray about and consider this question and to identify 3 specific ways (three representing the three times Jesus issues the command) we each can respond to Jesus' command. What are some concrete ways we can spiritually nourish someone or reach out to someone who is lost?

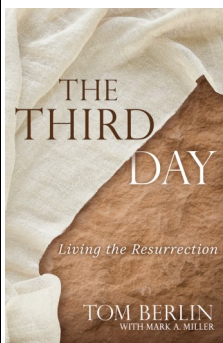
May we have blessed Easter Season!

Pastor Leigh



How many times has a choir anthem left you speechless? Or a prelude lifted your heart to God? How many times has a child singing or a bell ringing touched you with God's joy?

Join us Sunday, April 14th in worship, then in a congregational luncheon afterward as we celebrate and give thanks for our music ministry. At this time, we will launch a special offering to support our music ministry and specifically to purchase new robes for all our choirs. Our goal is \$12,000. Please indicate on the memo: *Choir Robe offering*. Let us all give thanks for the ways music touches our hearts and support these ministries. **Pot Luck Lunch** - Come have lunch and celebrate our music ministry. Meat and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share.



Adult Sunday School

Starting April 7th, our adult Sunday school will be taking up a study of Tom Berlin's The Third Day: Living the Resurrection. This 6-session course examines how the Resurrection transforms the lives of Peter, Mary Magdalene, Thomas, and others in the earliest days of the church. Each session will have a video followed by a discussion.

Those wishing to dive deeper can purchase the paperback (144 pages) or kindle version from their favorite bookseller. All are welcome. Please join us in the Cornerstone Room.



Patriotic Flag Program

The Session approved a request from the Property Committee to have a special offering for flags to be placed in front of the church (on Main and Bartow Streets) on the patriotic holidays. The local Kiwanis Club will handle the placement, removal, and storage of these flags. They will match the other flags that one finds on Main Street during the holidays. It will cost \$800 for a five-year contract with the Kiwanis Club to do this. Proceeds go to help with local youth programs. If you would like to contribute to this special offering, please see Dale Luengen or note "Flags" in the memo line on your check.



**Spring Yard Work Day
Saturday, April 20th
9 am-12 pm**

Let's get together to do some spring clean-up for our church friends. Mowing, trimming, weeding, etc. Many hands make quick work! If you need of some assistance in your yard, please contact the church office or Susan Ingram at 770-382-8658.

Looking ahead....

In June we will resume Coffee Shop Theology at Noble & Main on Wednesdays at 11 AM, as well as the Thursday evening Bible study at 7 PM. Watch for details in the May Loveletter, and make plans to join us!



Looking further ahead...


In partnership with Mission, Faith Development is planning an overnight Fall Service/Spiritual Formation Retreat Weekend on October 11-13 (Fri-Sun) in Blue Ridge. Women and children elementary-age and older are welcome to spend one or both nights, and everyone is invited to join us for a day of service on Saturday. Details will be shared as they become available. Everyone interested in joining us for this fun and exciting opportunity should contact Jean Gilliland or Jenny Brennan.



Sunday, April 7, at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited.

FPC Book Club
April 25th at 10:30am
Cornerstone Room

The book selection this month is Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. Come join us. Everyone is welcome.



Exploring Grief

The Exploring Grief Group meets **April 21** in the Cornerstone Room immediately after worship. Bring your own lunch and come for a time of reflection and prayer. You do not have to have attended previously to come to the group. All are welcome.

Ladies Night Out - April 18 at 6:00 p.m.
 This month we will meet at Sixes Tavern 650 Henderson Drive, Cartersville, for good food and fellowship. All ladies are invited and bring a friend!

From the Session:

Highlights from the March monthly stated meeting:

1. Communion moved to Easter Sunday.
2. Contracted with Kiwanis Club to put up flags on certain holidays.
3. AA will use Cornerstone room for meetings. Al Anon will be in Session room for their meetings.
4. We will retain Laurens Verna to continue to search for possible tenants to lease second floor of the education building.
5. Session approved buying new choir robes, new piano light, and a new organ light.

Women’s Bible Study

will meet **April 4th at 10:30 AM** in the Cornerstone Room. Our donations of feminine hygiene products continue. April’s lesson from *Sacred Encounters* is Lesson 7 with the scripture being Acts 16:11-15. All are welcome!

First Presbyterian Preschool



Jennifer Graves ~ Director ~ 770-382-0755

Jennifer@cartersvillepres.org



Pictured Above: Ms. Becca's 3-year old class and their St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

It's hard to believe it is already April! We have 6 weeks of school left after Spring Break! This month, our students will take Spring pictures, some of our classes will visit Pettit Creek Farms, we'll have our annual egg hunts and celebrate Easter, and we will prepare to honor our amazing staff in May, during Teacher Appreciation Week! We currently have 98 students registered for next school year! We have availability in our Pre-K/4-year-old classes and Kindergarten. If you know anyone interested in attending our preschool, please have them call or email me. ~Blessings, Jennifer

April Dates to Remember

Spring Break
No School April 1-5

Fieldtrip to Pettit Creek Farms (Nursery, 2's, 3's)
April 12

Spring Pictures
April 16 and 17

Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6-10

Pictured Below: Ms. Skyla and Ms. Haley's nursery class enjoys Dr. Seuss Week in March!



APRIL BIBLE VERSE:

He is not here: He has risen!



Luke 24:6-7



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. We all had a wonderful time with crafts, games, and the hunt.



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 & children 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.



Youth Group Trip to Lake Arrowhead

Sunday, April 7

We have been invited to spend the afternoon at a lake house at Lake Arrowhead on Sunday, April 7th. Enjoy the heated pool & kayaks, and bring your fishing pole and a change of clothes. We will leave FPC after worship (12:30), and we will have lunch at the lake house.

All are welcome and invite friends!

RSVPs are required so we know how many adult drivers we need.

RSVP to Andrea – andrea@cartersvillepres.org



VBS Save the Date & Volunteers Needed

VBS is coming to FPC this Summer!

July 8-12, 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 Children & Youth Group Calendar

- April 7** – Youth Trip to Lake Arrowhead
- April 14** – Children & Youth Group + Dinner (4-6:30)
- April 21** - Youth Group + Dinner (4-6:30)
- April 28** - Youth Sunday

- May 5** – Youth Group + Dinner (4-6:30)
- May 12** - Mother’s Day
- May 19** – Senior Recognition Sunday

Easter Egg Hunt 2024



April Birthdays

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



In April Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Jim Stanley, Emily Doxey (Preschool), Becca Englert (Preschool)

Officers: Trey Gaines (Session), Jennifer Nebergall (Diaconate)

Ministries: Congregational Life Ministry

Families: April 1-7: Matt and Jessi Bailey (Sam, Judd), Richard and Guill Bailey, Alice Baker, Mike and Cynthia Ball, Elise Bares (Anderson, Johnathan, Edward)

April 8-14: Grace Barker (Wesley, Barbara), Steve and Mary Barnes, Brad and Susan Barrett, Anne Marie Benton (Jimmy, David), Pat Bivens

April 15-21: Peyton Boulier, Gary and Kay Boulier, Brandon and Elizabeth Bowen (Tom, Katherine), Dick and Jenny Brannan, Tonya Branyon (Mallory)

April 22-30: Mark and Sandy Bridges, Phil and Donna Bridges, Jerry Brownlow (Skylar, Call), Autumn Bruno, Adam and Jamie Brush (Drake, Jacob)

First Presbyterian Church

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Contact

Leigh Jones, pastor

pastorleighjones@gmail.com

Andrea Roche, children & youth director

andrea@cartersvillepres.org

Jim Stanley, choir director

music@cartersvillepres.org

Fred Drifmeyer, organist/pianist

Becky Ferguson, ministry assistant

becky@cartersvillepres.org

Angie Hood, church administrator

angie@cartersvillepres.org

Jennifer Graves, preschool director

jennifer@cartersvillepres.org

April Calendar

April 1 - 5 - Preschool Spring Break Week

April 1

Church Office Closed

April 2

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

April 4

10:30am - *Sacred Encounters* Women's Bible Study

April 7

9:00am - Men's Monthly Breakfast

12:30pm - Youth Group Trip to Lake Arrowhead

April 8

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

April 14

11:00am - Celebrating Our Music Ministry

12:00pm - Potluck Lunch

April 15

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

7:00pm - Mission Committee Meeting

April 16

7:00pm - Session Meeting

April 18

6:00pm - Ladies Night Out @ Sixes Tavern

April 20

9:00am - Spring Yard Work Day

April 21

12:00pm - Exploring Grief Group

April 25

10:30am - FPC Book Club

April 30

7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting

