



THE PRESBYTERIAN NEWS



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Friends,

Happy Easter! The Lord is Risen! And just for good measure: April Fool's!

In another strange coincidence of the calendar this year, Easter falls on April Fool's Day. Can you imagine Jesus rising from the grave, with a big "gotcha" for the women at the tomb? "I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever" (Revelation 1:18). April Fool's!

Are we still fools, all these thousands of years later? Do we still go looking for the living among the dead? Do we keep the news to ourselves, because we're afraid?

Or is it the opposite that makes us foolish? Is it our belief in an event that is scientifically impossible? Is it our insistence that God can bring life from death? Is it our faith that God wants to redeem all creation, shaping us into something new? Is that what makes us the fool?

Either way, I'm grateful to be among the foolish this Easter. I'm grateful to hear Jesus proclaim life to my weary and sometimes cynical heart. I'm grateful to be surrounded by saints who insist that God can do the impossible. I'm grateful for a God whose love is stronger than the grave.

"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Peace,

Melissa McNair-King

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

From Day Circle by Phyllis Vice:

Day Circle will meet on Monday, April 9th, at 11 a.m. in the Manse. We will be studying lesson six of *Cloud of Witnesses: In Community with the Reality of the Present*. Scripture for this lesson is Hebrews 2:10-18, 10:34-35 and Mark 8:31-38. Bring a sack lunch and stay for fellowship after the meeting.

Looking ahead:

The Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women celebrates Presbyterian women's history of mission giving. It was launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS). Since that time, the Birthday Offering has become an annual tradition and has funded nearly 100 major mission projects that continue to make a difference in the lives of women and children around the world. The projects chosen for 2018 are:

Cottage Village, a Tiny-house Community for Low-income Residents in Cottage Grove, Oregon

Cottage Village will provide quality, affordable housing and a safe, structured social community for individuals and families with low or very low incomes. This Birthday Offering grant will be used to help build thirteen tiny houses and a central shared-use area that will serve as a compassionate and protective community for vulnerable rural citizens.

Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

This Birthday Offering grant will make it possible for the Presbytery of Honduras to purchase the *Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health* near Tegucigalpa. Originally established by Presbyterian mission co-workers, the retreat center will be managed by Presbyterian women in Honduras. It will offer international hospitality for retreats, workshops and mission teams for the P(USA), Solar Under the Sun and Living Waters for the World.

The Dwelling Place, Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota

The Dwelling Place was established in 1998 to provide for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of women and their children following their escape from a violent partner. Transitional housing, education, food, clothing, trauma-informed support services, programming and mentoring for women are all part of the mission of *The Dwelling Place*. This Birthday Offering grant will help *The Dwelling Place* purchase a vacant lot where they will construct a multi-use building with spaces suitable for large and small group programming, one-on-one case management, safe living space and staff offices. With the additional building, *The Dwelling Place* will be able to serve even more women and children who are seeking safety.

Here at First Presbyterian we have traditionally participated in the offering on Mother's Day. Envelopes will be available at this time for your gift.

From Night Circle by Dianne Wallace:

Night Circle will meet on Monday, April 9th, 6:30 p.m. in the Manse. Phyllis Vice will lead us in Lesson Nine, *Today's Heroine: Eve from Women Who Dare to Believe, Volume 2*. Our service project is bags for benches. While we are taking care of the environment of our Father's world, we can also help provide benches for several locations in our community. Please collect and bring plastic bags such as LDPE/HDPE Films, Newspaper Sleeves, Bread Bags, Product Wrap, Cereal Liners, Overwrap, Packaging Air Pillows, Food Storage Bags, Ice Bags, Produce Bags, Dry Cleaning Bags and Salt Bags. The April themed meal will be God's creations. Dianne will contact you to coordinate the menu.

Presbyterian Women -
Praying, Studying, Loving, Serving

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

EASTER SUNDAY, April 1st, we will have a potluck breakfast at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Worship with Communion will be at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING offering will be received on Easter Sunday, April 1st. The offering funds three programs of the Presbyterian Church (USA): Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Monday, April 2nd, in observance of Easter.

YOUTH GROUP will meet on Sunday, April 8th, from 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the Manse! All middle and high school youth are encouraged to join us for dinner and fellowship. We will be working on our plans for Youth Sunday, so bring your best ideas! (And mark your calendar for Sunday, May 6th, for Youth Sunday).

THE LITERACY VOLUNTEERS of the New River Valley (provider of free literacy and English-language tutoring to area adults) is holding its 12th Annual Scrabble Tournament fundraiser on Thursday, April 12th, 2018, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the New River Valley Mall. Teams of 3 will play two games of Scrabble against two different teams with the scores from both games added together to determine the winner. The event will kick off with appetizers at 5:30 p.m.; the first game will be at 6:15 p.m. followed by a short break and a second game. You can sign up as a team of 3 (\$100) or as an individual who will be matched to a team (\$35). Please join us or spread the word. Contact Lisa Quesenberry at 540-382-7262 or lquesenberry@lvnrv.org to sign up or if you have any additional questions. Thank you in advance for your support of our programs!

PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS to the church office for the May newsletter no later than Monday, April 16th.

FREE INCOME TAX Preparation Service is available at Community Action next door to this church. It is for people who have an annual income of \$54,000 or less. Please call 980-5525 to make an appointment with Gil Vice.

Again, my thanks and appreciation for the extended help I have received from my church family.

Cards, visits, food, flowers, phone calls and especially transportation to the doctors. When I needed help it was there and always given with caring and love.

My love to all of you.

Dot Cash



CHECK IT OUT!



"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land." Song of Solomon 2:11-12

We can rejoice with the writer of the above and celebrate the rebirth and new life of the season. April 22nd is Earth Day. The following books will be on display in the church parlor. Check them out!

220.85 PAR All the Birds of the Bible: Their stories, identification and meaning by Alice Parmelee

508.75 DIL Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard

640 BIA Green Mama: The guilt-free guide to helping you and your kids save the planet by Tracey Bianchi - The author offers creative tips and spiritual inspiration to help you make wise environmental choices in your community, at the office, and during ordinary afternoons at home.

712.6 HAN Living in the Garden by Sharon Hanby-Robie - Whether you have a small porch or a large yard, whether you have rarely worked the earth or are a veteran green thumb, this book will bring you a whole new perspective to outdoor living and encourage you to create your own little piece of Eden.

759.95 VES Flowers of the Holy Land by Bertha Spafford Vester

808 JOH To see a World in a grain of Sand by Caesar Johnson - A collection of sayings and quotes on life and living.

CH 211 SAS God's Paintbrush by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso - Discusses God's place in the universe and how God touches our world.

CH FIC BUS Our Great Big Backyard by Laura Bush - Jane's plans for spending the summer playing video games with her friends are dashed when her parents announce that her family is going on a road trip. Co-author Jenna Bush Hager.

YA 333.7 STE Winds in the Woods: The Story of John Muir by John Stewart

If there is a book you would like to read from our church library but are unable to get it, give Phyllis Vice a call (980-3106) and she will be happy to get the book to you. To check out a book write your name and the date you are taking the book on the card that is in the pocket in the back of the book. Place the card on the black and white spotted box (the card catalog) on the shelf nearest to the windows.



Twin girls

Join us for a baby shower honoring
MELISSA MCNAIR-KING
Given by the ladies of the church

Saturday, April 14, 2018: 10 am – 12 pm
the Manse at First Presbyterian Church
408 N. Jefferson Ave. Pulaski, Va.

Baby Registry: Target and Amazon

Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays!

6:00-7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

We start off with a family dinner every Wednesday night! Following dinner, there are activities for all ages. This month, each week will be fun and games for all ages.

Plan to make Wednesday church nights a part of your regular routine! It is a special time of learning and growing together as a church family. The suggested "offering" for dinner is \$4/person or \$15/family. This is anonymous, and give-as-you-can. Everyone is welcome regardless of your ability to give.

Thank you to those who are serving in April:

Date	Cooking Team	Clean-Up Team	Program
April 4	Pizza!	Andy, Jessie, KD	Pizza & Pie Night! (See info below)
April 11	Barry, Violet, Carla	Joe, Michelle, Ashley	Bible Jeopardy
April 18	Dianne, Phyllis, Martha	Larry, Phyllis, Bernice	Birthdays & BINGO
April 25	Ron, KD, Pam	Ernie, Barbara, Mary Catherine	Talent Show
May 2	Potluck!	Congregational Life Committee	Spring Picnic @ Randolph Park

Pie Night!

Do you love pie? On this night at Wonderful Wednesdays, you will have the chance to win a pie to take home! No offering will be collected for the meal. Instead, we will be selling "pie walk" tickets for \$5. Each ticket will give you a turn in the pie walk, and all money raised will go straight to the **American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.**

Do you love to MAKE (or buy) pie? Let Julie or Melissa know if you would like to bring one for the prize table! Please bring it in a disposable dish.





DATE:

LAY READERS:

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:

4/1/18

Joe Zagraban

Doreen Latimer

4/8/18

Tom Haller

Violet Nash

4/15/18

Gene Holt

Karen Payne

4/22/18

Allison Hunter

Barbara Roberson

4/29/18

Barry Long

Peg Vaughan