

Our mission is to create disciples for Jesus Christ and to practice His teachings by loving and serving God and one another.



APRIL 2022

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

# TIMES

## Letter from the Pastor

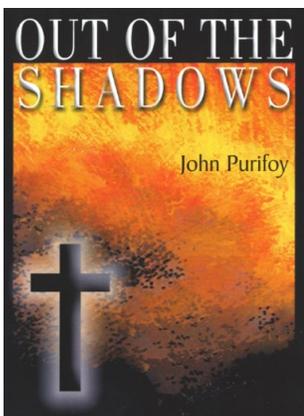
Friends,

As April begins, the season of Lent comes to an end and gives way to Easter. Many opportunities exist for us as a community of faith to be together in worship and service, and I hope you'll make every effort to participate in them as they arise. They are as follows:



**Sunday, April 3** concludes our series on the Great Ends of the Church. I hope that this time together exploring the main mission of the church has been worthwhile for you. It has

certainly been a joy for me, and a refreshing time of "getting back to the basics" of both "who" and "whose" we are as a people.



**Sunday, April 10** is Palm/Passion Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. As we did in Advent, we invite you to join us in worship for a special cantata our choir has been preparing called "Out of the Shadows" by John Purifoy. The Publisher writes: "The agony and the angst of the stirring events of Holy Week textually and musically evolve into the jubilant celebration of the risen Christ in this moving portrayal of the most significant event in all Christendom. The



## HOLY WEEK A Daily Devotion

I'm so grateful for the witness of this community of faith, and its perseverance, over this most-trying couple of years. As we come to yet another Holy Week "together apart" as we've come to say, I offer below a devotional of sorts and ask for your participation, beginning April 10. Light a candle, read the Scriptures, and remember, with thanks and prayer, the love of God for a world in such desperate need of hope, healing, wholeness, and life.

Peace, Pastor Jason

**Begin each time with prayer:**  
Everlasting God, in your tender love you sent your Son to take our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross. In your tender mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Continued on following pages...*

As you read each Scripture... is there a word or idea that stirred within you? Focus on it... ask what God's invitation, or announcement, to you might be. Pray your life to God... take a moment to rest in God's presence.

## Palm Sunday

Read Mark 11:1-11

It is time for Jesus to make his entry into Jerusalem for the last time. He knows what awaits him, but he does not turn back.

## Monday

Read Mark 11:12-19

Less than two miles from Jerusalem is the city of Bethany. Jesus has spent the night there with his disciples but now returns with them to the busy city of Jerusalem. Passover has brought a huge crowd to the Holy City.

## Tuesday

Read John 12:20-36

Each day Jesus and the disciples would go to the temple where Jesus would teach the crowds. His last public discourse was perhaps his hardest—that his hour was at hand for the ultimate sacrifice.

## Wednesday

Read Luke 22:1-6

Passover, the great Jewish festival remembering God's deliverance of a people from bondage to freedom, is drawing near. And Jesus has many seeking his undoing. A plot develops to stop him.

remarkable beauty and sensitivity of Purifoy's music captures the extreme pathos contained in the story's darkest shadows as well as the exhilarating excitement created by the risen Christ. '...out of the shadows of darkness, Jesus triumphed...out of the shadows of death, Jesus rose...out of the shadows of the crucifixion, we are all reborn.' Join us for this beautiful witness to the good news proclaimed through music.



**Thursday, April 14** is Maundy Thursday. "Maundy" comes from the Latin word meaning "commandment," and it is on this evening, at 7:00p.m., that we remember the commandment Jesus gave disciples in the upper room to "love one another." What does this love look like? Join us at this beautiful service to remember our Savior's sacrificial love.



**Friday, April 15** is Good Friday. But why in the world do we call it "good"? It is on this night, at 7:00p.m. that we will worship and give thanks for the sacrifice of God in Jesus Christ. We hope you will join us for this contemplative service of worship and observance of the crucifixion and glorification of Jesus; join us and permit the power of silence to speak for itself.



**Sunday, April 17** is Easter Sunday, the Day of Resurrection! We will worship early at 8:00a.m. in Tami's Garden, and from 8:30-9:00-ish we have invited our neighborhood to join us for an easter egg hunt in the park. Everyone is invited to fellowship, break bread with one another, and enjoy a meal in Presby Place from 9:00 to 10:30, when our traditional sanctuary service will begin. This is the "main event" for the church of Jesus Christ. And we hope it will be your priority to

join the community of faith in worship and witness to the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Easter Sunday is also the day we will also receive the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering of the PC(USA). For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. 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 the One Great Hour of Sharing (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. We hope you will generously support this special offering on the day we celebrate our liberation in Christ.

So many opportunities for worship and service, for renewed witness in this world to the hope we have in and through Jesus Christ our Lord! See you there.

Peace,  
Pastor Jason

## Maundy Thursday

John 13:1-32

Having loved his own...he loved them to the end." Even in the midst of betrayal by a beloved disciple, Jesus reiterates his love for us and then gives us all a new commandment "love one another." Jesus further demonstrates his love for his disciples by taking on the role of a servant setting an example for all who would claim the title Christian.

## Good Friday

John 18 & 19

During the long night after his arrest, Jesus was led from trial to trial. Peter denies him three times while the other disciples abandon him completely and go into hiding. Then in the afternoon Jesus is taken to a hill outside the city and is crucified.

## Holy Saturday

Matthew 27:57-66

Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God is dead! His body lies in a sealed tomb. All his followers are in despair. They remember neither his words nor his teachings. They only feel the great sorrow that is breaking their hearts.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Upcoming Events, Classes, & Save the Date's

### Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 14th at 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

### Good Friday Service

Friday, April 15th at 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

### Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 17th at 8:00 a.m. | Tami's Garden

### Easter Communion Service

Sunday, April 17th at 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary

### Friday Fellowship

Friday, April 22nd at 11:00 a.m. | Fisher Hall | Speaker: Jeff Smith



Dear friends,

I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and care shown me in my time of grieving the untimely loss of my beloved wife Janet by so many of you through cards, calls, texts, visits, help, food, donations, and attendance at Janet's funeral service and lunch provision that followed. God bless you, and thank you all so very much.

In gratitude,  
Paul Dittmar

IT'S A GIRL!

KIRK & TAYLOR PROVINE WELCOMED  
A BABY GIRL INTO THE WORLD!

Breigh Haven  
Provine

Born Tuesday, March 15th  
Weighing 8 lb. 4 oz. and 20.5 inches  
long.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAMA  
& FAMILY!

## Easter Sunday Morning

Matthew 28:1-10

The Sabbath is over and the women gather at the garden tomb to prepare Jesus' body for burial. They do not know how they will move the heavy stone sealing the tomb but they are determined to do this last thing for their beloved teacher. When they get to the tomb they discover that it is empty. Furthermore, they are told that their Lord is risen! With their hearts filled with joy, they rush to tell the disciples the wonderful news. Our Lord is not dead! He lives!

## Easter Sunday Evening

Luke 24:13-49

The Lord is risen! He is risen, indeed! And he appears to many of his disciples on multiple occasions, opening minds, eyes, and hearts to the good news that he has conquered death and that disciples are heralds of a new age begun with resurrection!

# PRESBY PLACE & "THE CRUD CREW"



Happy news — Presby Place kitchen had a long overdue deep cleaning! It took a LOT of elbow grease to remove the layers of grease deposited over the years! Nothing has a new location, things were sorted and put back into their previous locations as designated by the labels that were already in place. We did take the liberty of discarding some of the spices that were no doubt on the shelves from the time that PP opened up. We also freely discarded a few things in the refrigerator that, lack of better words, seemed to have seen their better days!

If you happen to see the Deacons' (& spouses) "PP Kitchen Crud Crew", Jan Gibbs, Pam Beardsley, Jim & Linda Schottler, let them know how great the kitchen looks! Thanks again to all for all that you do to support this mission!



**The FPC Bell Choir playing "Amazing Grace" for the congregation during the March 6th Sunday Service!**

Photo courtesy of Mary Mertz





# 2022 CONFIRMATION

FPC had three confirmands this spring -- Talon Huff, Connor Montgomery, and Benjamin Pittman! The three young men publicly professed their faith and expressed their intention to continue in the covenant God made with them in their baptism. They even made their own communion chalices for the special occasion with the assistance of Cheri Graham at the MAC!



BSA Troop 74 helped the First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry by collecting 300 lbs. of food and nonfood items on Saturday, March 12, 2022 as part of the national "Scouting for Food" program. Scoutmasters Michael Kerr, Sylvia Carter, and other volunteers organized the event. Approximately 15 scouts participated in the food drive, which is the leading service program held by the national BSA. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 9, and join Troop 74 for a pancake feed at PresbyPlace (7:00am - 2:00pm).



# APRIL CALENDAR

## Calendar of events through the month of April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>IMPORTANT DATES!</b> <b>April 9th: Pancake Feed by Troop 74 (7am - 2pm)</b> <b>April 10th: Palm Sunday</b> <b>April 14th: Maundy Thursday</b> <b>April 15th: Good Friday</b> <b>April 17th: Easter Sunday</b> <b>April 22nd: Friday Fellowship</b>					1
3 Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Deacon's Offering 5th Sunday in Lent	4 Worship Committee Meeting 5:15pm Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm	5 Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	6 Staff Meeting 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Newsletter Deadline	7 Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm	8 Food Pantry 9am
10 Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Palm/Passion Sunday	11 Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm Mission Committee Meeting 5pm Membership Meeting 5:30pm Monday of Holy Week	12 Bridge Builders 11:30am Stewardship Committee 1:30pm Community Showers 5pm Faith Formation 5:15pm Community Meals 6pm Tuesday of Holy Week	13 Women's Bible Study 10am Wednesday of Holy Week	14 Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm Business Affairs 5pm Maundy Thursday Service 7pm Maundy Thursday	15 Food Pantry 9am Good Friday Service 7pm <b>OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON</b> Good Friday
17 Nursery 9am-noon Sunrise Service 8am Easter Egg Hunt 8:30am Easter Breakfast 9am Worship/Communion 10:30am Resurrection of the Lord Easter Sunday	18 Men's Luncheon 12pm Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm	19 Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	20 Staff Meeting 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Personnel Committee Meeting 1pm	21 Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm	22 Food Pantry 9am Friday Fellowship 11am
24 Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:30am 2nd Sunday of Easter	25 Deacons Meeting 5pm Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm	26 Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm Session Meeting 6:30pm	27 Women's Bible Study 10am	28 Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm	29

# February 2022 Harvesters Report

**SERVED:**

**28 HOUSEHOLDS**

**27 ADULTS, 4 CHILDREN & 5 ELDERLY**

Our food pantry was open every Friday in the month of February! We appreciate the dedicated work of our new Friday volunteer coordinator, Josh Medicinebird, and our 33 other volunteers! Additional thank-you's to co-food pantry coordinators, Emily Mark and Stacey Montgomery; Mylo Wattenford's assistance in purchasing non-food items; and the support of the Deacons and Presby office staff!

## WHAT'S NEW IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?!



The Sunday school bible class crafted these projects after learning about the Luke 6:35 scripture, "Love Your Enemies!"

### Luke 6:35

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 04/04 Shirley Shimp
- 04/04 Grant Presley
- 04/04 Forrest Presley
- 04/07 Libby Edgar
- 04/08 Bradley Bowen
- 04/09 Maxine Coffey
- 04/09 Frieda Palmgren
- 04/09 Kristan Thompson
- 04/14 Haley Wilson
- 04/14 Rae Anderson
- 04/14 Ross Snyder
- 04/14 Reagan Shilling
- 04/16 Kenneth Johnson
- 04/18 Palmer Meek
- 04/18 Stephanie Upson
- 04/18 Craig Kershner
- 04/19 Stephanie Petrie
- 04/19 Shelley Norris
- 04/22 Carole Fager
- 04/23 Davis Wall
- 04/23 Steve Bietau
- 04/23 Carolyn Pulford
- 04/27 Sharron Washington
- 04/27 Molly Townsend
- 04/27 Nancy Habluetzel
- 04/28 Kirk Provine





First Presbyterian Church  
801 Leavenworth St  
Manhattan, KS 66502

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Phone: 785-537-0518

Facebook: [@firstpresmanhattan](#)

Instagram: [@firstpremanhattan](#)

YouTube: [@firstpresmanhattan](#)

Website: [www.firstpresmanhattan.com](http://www.firstpresmanhattan.com)

## **Out of the Shadows: An Easter Cantata** Join us Sunday, April 3rd for an Easter Cantata

The agony and angst of the stirring events of Holy Week textually and musically evolve into the jubilant celebration of the risen Christ in this moving portrayal of the most significant event in all Christendom.

“...out of the shadows of darkness, Jesus triumphed  
...out of the shadows of death, Jesus rose  
...out of the shadows of the crucifixion, we are all reborn”