

Loving & Serving God and One Another

APRIL 2021



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TIMES

Letter from the Pastor

In my office are many books and professional materials I've acquired over the years: textbooks, commentaries, worship aides, Bible studies and class materials for small groups, etc. But one section I find myself poring over most frequently is perhaps the smallest. It's the section where I keep my devotional material.

There are classics such as Oswald Chambers' *My Utmost for His Highest*, Thomas à Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*, John Calvin's meditations on the psalms, compilations of meditations from the "early church fathers," Howard Thurman's *Meditations from the Heart*, and the anonymous *God Calling* offered only by "The Listeners." And there are others by my favorite author, Frederick Buechner, the late William Sloan Coffin, and the contemporary Roman Catholic author Matthew Kelly. But this year I decided to draw from two others for my personal devotions: *Seeking God's Face: Praying with the Bible through the Year*, by Philip Reinders and *A Year with C.S. Lewis: Daily Readings from His Classic Works*. I highly recommend both.

I've read lots of Lewis' works over the years. The *Chronicles of Narnia* series is one of my all-time favorite series of writings. But having many of his writings put in such a format as a daily devotional has been exhilarating for me this year...a way to rediscover both simple and profound truths of the Christian experience and calling.

The devotion assigned for March 10 is taken from *Mere Christianity*, which was itself originally a series of radio talks given by Lewis during World War II. In this particular periscope, Lewis writes about one of the things he found most shocking when reading the New Testament seriously for the first time: "that it talked so much about a Dark Power in the universe—a mighty evil spirit who was held to be the Power behind death and disease, and sin." He goes on to write about this using a term people had at the front of their minds all over the world during World War II: "Enemy-occupied territory."

Enemy-occupied territory is a brilliant way to describe the state of the world, and the work of this Dark Power, as Lewis calls it. Yet what we believe, and proclaim, about the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, is that the resurrection is God's victory in this ages-long war; and that while the war may be won, battles still rage on in certain territories until the enemy realizes it's a losing battle and is once, for all, defeated.

Continued on next page.

People are still drafted and recruited onto each side, but the war has been won.

Never one to really like the militaristic language, I shudder initially at this thought. Yet just because I do not like it does not mean it is false. God's victory, in Jesus Christ, over sin and death, the in-breaking of God's reign/kingdom made known in and through Jesus Christ, and the amazing privilege and life-giving mission that is ours to enact in light of this victory and new creation, is the good news of Resurrection!

Have you ever thought of yourself as a courier, sent to announce in word and deed, the end of a war, and the way to rebuild that leads to peace and prosperity for all? That's what the Resurrection of Jesus Christ began... and what it continues in and through the church today. And the words that get us started are "The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!"

Whether you've ever considered yourself a courier or not—you are one. You've been given your marching orders through baptism. We all have: to proclaim the Good News through word and action, to make disciples, and to be the body of Christ in and for this world (the church!), a living witness to the power and presence of the Living God unleashed from the tomb!

I'm grateful to be on this journey with you. And thankful that we follow the One who has already secured the victory for us.

Peace,
Pastor Jason



NEW! BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

The Deacons committee established the Bereavement Ministry in late 2020 to provide care and comfort to those grieving the loss of loved ones through communication and coordination of visits. Some of the activities include sending cards of hope and encouragement, communicating when pastor visits are needed and developing care teams. These teams help support grieving members when they need additional support such as meals and other activities.

The Bereavement Ministry also uses the Stephen Ministries "Journeying Through Grief" book series*. This set of four short books are sent to grieving individuals at designated intervals during the first year after a loved one has died. Sent at 3 weeks, 3 months, 6 months and 11 months after their loss, each book focuses on the feelings and issues a person commonly experiences at that point in their grief, offering comfort and hope throughout that difficult first year. By reaching out at these critical times, this Ministry provides helpful, timely information while helping the person feel valued and remembered.

First Presbyterian Church has also become the new location for The Hope & Healing Grief Support group that is facilitated by the Good Shepherd Homecare & Hospice. This is an open grief support group for anyone in the Manhattan area who has suffered the death of a loved one. Hope & Healing is a safe environment for people to talk about their grief with others who have suffered similar losses in their own lives.

The group meets in the First Presbyterian Church Chapel from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. each Thursday and is led by Dan Clayton of Good Shepherd Homecare & Hospice. All are welcome to attend.

*Journeying Through Grief Giver's Guide pp.1-2 . Copyright 2004, 2020 by Stephen Ministries,
St. Louis.

APRIL CALENDAR

Calendar of events through the month of April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm Community Meals 6pm Maundy Thursday 7pm	2 Good Friday 7pm	3 Spring Family Day at Mertz Farm 2pm Great Vigil of Easter
4 Sunrise Service 8:30am Easter Service 10:30am Deacon Offering Easter Sunday	5	6 Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm Holocaust Remembrance Day	7 Staff Meeting 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Handbell Choir 6pm	8 Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm Community Meals 6pm	9	10
11 Worship 10:30am 2nd Sunday of Easter	12 Men's Luncheon 12pm	13 Stewardship Meeting 1:30pm Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	14 Women's Bible Study 10am Handbell Choir 6pm	15 Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm Community Meals 6pm	16	17
18 Youth Sunday Worship 10:30am 3rd Sunday of Easter	19	20 Stewardship Meeting TBA Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	21 Staff Meeting 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Handbell Choir 6pm	22 Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm Community Meals 6pm Earth Day	23	24 Troop 74 Pancake Feed 7am
25 Worship 10:30am 4th Sunday of Easter	26 Deacon's Meeting TBA	27 Community Showers 5pm Session Meets 5:15pm Community Meals 6pm	28 Women's Bible Study 10am Handbell Choir 6pm	29 Hope & Healing Grief Group 12pm Community Meals 6pm	30	

COMMUNITY MEALS

First Presbyterian's community meals volunteer teams were able to serve over 300 dinner meals and over 230 breakfast snack sacks so far this year!

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to our community!

IN MEMORIAM

Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord. They will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.

Revelation 14:13



Laura Varney | August 16, 1933 - February 24, 2021

Laura E. (Speer) Varney was born to Wendell and Rae Speer and raised in Clearwater, KS. In high school, she won many Kansas state music contests on the clarinet and was the Valedictorian of her graduating class. Laura attended Kansas State College, where she met her husband, Bill, in the K-State Band. They married on August 15, 1954. Laura earned her master's degree in Clothing and Textiles at K-State and shortly thereafter, she commenced teaching at the university. In 1981, she earned her PhD degree and was the second student to earn a doctorate degree from the KSU College of Health and Human Services.

Laura was very active in her community serving for multiple organizations such as the local chapter of Pi Beta Phi sorority, First Presbyterian Church, Girl Scouts, and the Flint Hills Breadbasket.

Laura is survived by her Husband, four children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and three siblings. A private service was held on March 3rd, giving thanks to God for her life and witness.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/01 Frank Laubhan
- 4/04 Grant Presley
- 4/04 Forrest Presley
- 4/04 Shirley Shrimp
- 4/07 Libby Edgar
- 4/08 Bradley Bowen
- 4/09 Frieda Palmgren
- 4/09 Kristan Thompson
- 4/09 Maxine Coffey
- 4/14 Haley Wilson
- 4/14 Rae Anderson
- 4/14 Reagan Shilling
- 4/16 Kenneth Johnson
- 4/18 Craig Kershner
- 4/18 Palmer Meek
- 4/18 Stephanie Upson
- 4/19 Shelley Norris
- 4/19 Stephanie Petrie
- 4/22 Carole Fager
- 4/23 Carolyn Pulford
- 4/23 Davis Wall
- 4/23 Steve Bietau
- 4/27 Sharron Washington

SNACKS NEEDED FOR CAMPERS!

Snacks and snack help is also needed each afternoon the week of July 19-23, for our "campers" attending Heartland TDC. For COVID-19 safety reasons, we have elected not to host a Vacation Bible School this year.

Providing snacks for day camp would be a great opportunity for anyone who would normally volunteer for VBS to safely connect with the kids, and be a part of this awesome ministry!

Signing up to provide snacks is easy; just email or text Shiloh to get on the list, and she will contact you as it gets closer to camp time with what is needed (we do not yet know registration numbers or have food allergy information on our campers).

Thank you to all who are willing to help!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children & Youth Ministries

There will be no VBS this summer, in-person or virtually.

We are disappointed to have to cancel, but feel this is in the best interest of our volunteers who would have to come into the building months ahead of time to prepare. We look forward to using our VBS material as part of a hybrid summer Bible study! Stay tuned for more details!

Heartland Camp

Heartland Camp Traveling Day Camp 2021 will be held July 19-23. More information will be posted on the website, with a link to the Heartland Camp registration page. Please contact Shiloh Vick with any questions at shiloh@firstpresmanhattan.com.

Host Families Needed!

Heartland Traveling Day Camp is returning to FPC this summer and your help is greatly needed as hosts to some fantastic young people! Heartland TDC counselors will once again call our church "home" this July 18-23. We are once again asking for you to make them feel welcome by providing meals at breakfast and dinner. Current COVID protocols for their protection and yours, will limit how and where they can gather. so if you would be willing to bring a meal to the church or invite them to your home for a picnic outside one evening, that would be wonderful! For more information, please contact Shiloh Vick, at shiloh@firstpresmanhattan.com or 785.317.8286. To sign up to host or bring a meal, visit our website and click on the Heartland Host Family link. Thank you in advance for extending your always generous, Presby hospitality!

First Presbyterian Events

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday's "Walk to Emmaus" will be held on April 18th during the 10:30 a.m. service. You can join in-person or online by visiting www.youtube.com/firstpresmanhattan

Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast

Boy Scout Troop 74 will be hosting their Annual Spring Pancake Feed (drive-thru only) on Saturday, April 24th from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church parking lot. Tickets are \$5 and are available the day of the event. The meals include three (3) pancakes and two (2) sausage links with butter and syrup.



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