

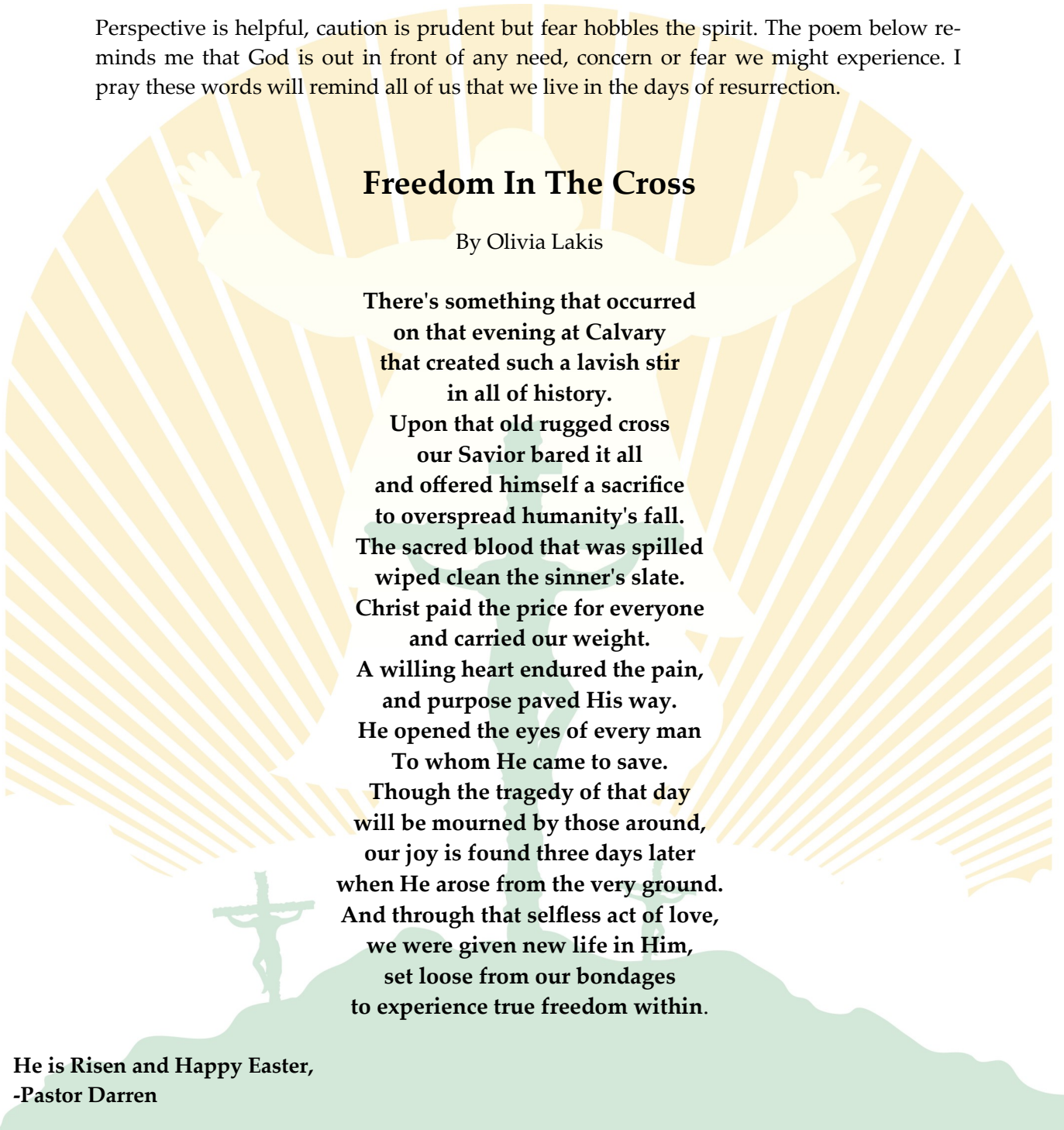
FROM THE PASTOR

COVID – CHRIST OFFERS VICTORY IN DEATH

Perspective is helpful, caution is prudent but fear hobbles the spirit. The poem below reminds me that God is out in front of any need, concern or fear we might experience. I pray these words will remind all of us that we live in the days of resurrection.

Freedom In The Cross

By Olivia Lakis



There's something that occurred
on that evening at Calvary
that created such a lavish stir
in all of history.
Upon that old rugged cross
our Savior bared it all
and offered himself a sacrifice
to overspread humanity's fall.
The sacred blood that was spilled
wiped clean the sinner's slate.
Christ paid the price for everyone
and carried our weight.
A willing heart endured the pain,
and purpose paved His way.
He opened the eyes of every man
To whom He came to save.
Though the tragedy of that day
will be mourned by those around,
our joy is found three days later
when He arose from the very ground.
And through that selfless act of love,
we were given new life in Him,
set loose from our bondages
to experience true freedom within.

He is Risen and Happy Easter,
-Pastor Darren

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The annual PCUSA One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on Easter Sunday, April 12. This offering supports ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The Sanctuary Flower Calendar has openings on May 17, May 31, October 25, and November 8. If you wish to place flowers in the church on one of those Sundays please contact Katherine Patterson (533-8340).



MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

Come join us on a mission trip to Iquitos, Peru on June 13-20. There will be a variety of missions we will be involved in such as Bible school, clean water distribution, food distribution and possibly either building a water treatment facility or a home! If you have felt or feeling the nudge to do mission work, now is your chance. Call Preston Walter 803-539-5886 for more information on the trip and how you can help.

LOCAL MISSIONS



With the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 in Southern Georgia. This Christian housing ministry has grown since then to become a leading global nonprofit organization welcoming everyone, regardless of religious preference, working in all 50 states and in more than 70 countries. The local affiliate, Edisto Habitat, was begun in 1989; Mrs. Jamie Wood served as the Executive Director from 2001 to 2019.

Edisto Habitat is one of the local missions of First Presbyterian Church. First Presbyterian has a wonderful history of supporting Edisto Habitat through the years in numerous ways as a congregation and as individuals: financial support, volunteering at construction sites and Homestore, serving on Board of Directors, providing lunches for Saturday volunteers and baked goods for fundraisers, allowing use of the Centre: participating in the Faith Build Houses of 2014 and 2018.

With the support of First Presbyterian Church, Edisto Habitat builds four houses a year and has recently completed its 88th house here in Orangeburg County. Together we help families achieve the strength, stability, and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves.

Jessica Burgoyne is the new director of the Edisto Habitat for Humanity. She transitioned into this position in 2019-20.

Melissa Camp
Volunteer Coordinator
Edisto Habitat for Humanity

GENERAL FUND 2020

For month ending February 29, 2020

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Income	\$41,987.72	\$107,229.69
General Fund Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$33,296.22</u>	<u>\$ 69,922.56</u>
	\$ 8,691.50	\$ 37,307.13

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE



LIVING FAITHFULLY



LIVING LOVED

We are moving through the Lenten season: a time of preparation, a time of humility and service, a time of spiritual enhancement and a time of purposefully looking at the direction of our lives.

What do you use to determine the direction of your life? Have you ever heard the term, "target fixation"? Basically it means where you are looking is the direction where you are going to go. If there is no obstacle/problem, things work well. If there is an obstacle/problem and you fixate on it, you will run into it. But if you look above and past it to where you need to go, you can usually avoid it.



The same is true for our spiritual development. When we "target fixate" on the problems or struggles, we will almost always orient our lives in that direction. But scriptures tell us, we must look past our concerns and issues to the One in charge, the One who can help. "I will lift up my eyes to the heavens... where does my help come from?" The answer is, "My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth....the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forever more" (Psalm 121:1, 2, 8). When our obstacles seem unsurmountable, God invites us to look to Him to see beyond our troubles instead of letting them dominate our lives. If you are feeling stressed and facing difficulties during this Lenten season, look to God and use this as a means of spiritual growth.

Are obstacles/problems the only time we need to fixate on God? Obviously not. We can and should focus on Him anytime as we work toward a deeper relationship with Him.

Think about what God has done for us and not what we think we may have done for Him. There is no comparison. We could never ever be or do enough to praise and thank Him enough for what He has done and continues to do for us...here and now and forever. Thank God for His grace and mercy through faith. There is a hymn, "Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God has done." Have you ever done that? Is there enough paper and time to write them down? Let's begin by thanking Him for dying for our sins and His resurrection for our eternal life. And do as Paul instructed the Colossians (chapter 3), "Since you have been raised to new life with Jesus, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Jesus sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth...Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony...Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks thru Him to God the Father."

CHALLENGE: Live a life worthy of being "Easter People."

PRAYER: God and Father, help us not "target fixate" on problems but to look to You as we seek to follow you along this road of life. Amen.

Serving together,

Kaye

Christian Education Coordinator



APRIL CIRCLE MEETINGS

- Circle 1:** Tuesday, April 14 11:30 a.m.
The Centre
- Circles 2 & 4:** Tuesday, April 14 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room
- Circle 3:** Monday, April 13 6:00 p.m.

Circles 2 and 4 will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14, in the conference room in the Centre. We are continuing our Bible study using the book "Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-changing Stories for Women Today." ALL are invited to join this study. For April, we are studying "Mary, Mother of Jesus: Moving From Comfort To Courage." Some scripture references are: Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:41-51; Matthew 1:18-25 and 2:11, Josh 2:1-12 and John 19:25.

Kaye Borgstedt

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS-APRIL

2-3 YEAR OLD CLASS: Leslie Lovelace

PRESCHOOL

- April 5 Jane Jeffords
April 12
April 19 Kaye Borgstedt
April 26 Jane Jeffords

ELEMENTARY

- April 5 Jane Holladay
April 12 Melissa and Tripp Plummer
April 19
April 26



MEMORIALS

In Memory of:

A.J. Hutto, Jr.

Nancy W. Hudson

GIVEN BY:

Mr. and Mrs. John Shuler
Mrs. Frances Lytch
Alex and Libby Bryant
Eric, Julian, Ben and Bill Horst
Sandy and Caroline Bryant
Virginia Risher
Grace Price
Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Campbell, Jr.
Libby and Reuben Ridgeway
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Frierson
Marshall and Vivian Skelton
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Byrd
O'Cain Construction Company, Inc.
Mike and Stefanie O'Cain
Mr. Keith Owen
Sojourner, Caughman and Thomas, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Pooser

Judy and Haynie Bull
Ronald Cain and Family
Anne McGill
Dr. and Mrs. L. P. Thackston
Lawrence and Joni Thackston
Danny Fogle
Mrs. Helen Culler
Cheryl and Hugh Smith
Mr. Gordon Huddleston
GrandSouth Bank
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Vance
Lynn and Kevin Rust
Gene and Kathy Wilkes
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Welch
Jason and Laura Fogle
Mrs. Elaine Holt
Doug and Lisa Tourville, Gail Tourville and Jeff and Deryl Tourville

John Knox Sunday School Class
Grace Livingston
Betty Edmonds
Dr. and Mrs. Steven Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. C. David Biswell
Gloria Garrison
Dr. and Mrs. Mark McGannon
Dr. and Mrs. James Brunson
Moss and Peggy Perrow
Mr. and Mrs. John Borrini
David and Geni Gillespie
Ms. Sylvia Ott
The Family of Tena Livingston
Mr. and Mrs. Drake Perrow
Shelby and Delle Bolen
Harris and Nancy Davis

Bethelwoods and VBS dates are subject to change; however, the basic information contained on this page remains the same.

BETHELWOODS CAMP-IN-A-VAN JULY 13-17



Bethelwoods Camp-In-A-Van will be July 13-17 (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. - noon on Friday).

All children 5K (completed) through 5th grade (completed) are invited to join us for an exciting day camp at The Centre. The camp will be led by counselors from Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center and will include games, Bible stories, songs, crafts, and fun!

There are only 28 spaces available, so register soon! Registration forms are available on the church website, and you can drop off registration forms at the church office or email them to Sarah at scoggins@1stpresbyterian.org. The cost is \$25 per child, and this includes lunch each day.

You can make checks payable to First Presbyterian and put "Bethelwoods" and your child's name on the memo line.

Sarah Coggins



WELCOME TO KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE!

Join First Presbyterian **June 8-12** for Knights of North Castle VBS for a fun filled time of learning about Jesus! All children 3K (completed) through 5th grade (completed) are invited.

Please register online at

<https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/1stpresbyterian>

by June 1, as the registration website will be closed after that date.

The cost is \$15 per child with a \$30 maximum per family. This includes a T-shirt and one CD per family! Money can be turned in to the church office or mailed (536 Stanley Street, Orangeburg, 29115). Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and include VBS in the memo line. Once you've paid, you can pick up your VBS CD, so your child can begin learning all of the fun, new songs! If you want to ensure that your child gets a certain shirt size, you need to register by May 15.

We also need youth and adult volunteers! If you'd like to help during VBS, please sign up at

<https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/1stpresbyterian/>.

Sarah Coggins

First Presbyterian Church
650 Summers Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29115
Return Service Requested



April 2020

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/01	Abigail Sterling	4/25	Laura Fogle
4/02	Bari Cuttino	4/26	Jean Davis
	Augustus Burroughs		Dryden Smith
4/10	Ben Davis	4/28	Peggy Crocker
4/12	Charles House		Janet Branan
4/15	Robert Richardson		John Hutto
4/17	Jim Fowler		Courtney Sterling
	Drew Shuler		Rylee Wofford
4/22	Emily Shepherd		Maddie Shaw
	Carson Gué		Charley Sterling
4/24	Dodd Buie	4/29	Leslie Lovelace
		4/30	Walt Turner



PSALM 130:7, NRSV