

FROM THE PASTOR

What does Easter mean for you? What an interesting question...

Easter for me means: Well, so many things. To be sure, I recall wonderful memories as a child, which for me included platform shoes and a baby blue leisure suit. Unfortunately, I also overindulged on Peeps during Easter one year, and to this day cannot be near one. Of course, our children have always found a great deal of pleasure in this each year; teasing me, hiding those little gooey, nasty, unnaturally colored and flavored baby biddies - right where I will find them, right where they will cause me much wailing and gnashing of teeth.

However, and more significantly, Easter also means for me: Life now and everlasting, Grace sufficient, Hope, Love wins, that God knows me, that God wants me and that a wedding is in our future. Easter means Jesus is.

Easter meant a flower for the poet Claude McKay as he wrote the following from the streets of Harlem:

The Easter Flower



Far from this foreign Easter damp and chilly
My soul steals to a pear-shaped plot of ground,
Where gleamed the lilac-tinted Easter lily
Soft-scented in the air for yards around;
Alone, without a hint of guardian leaf!
Just like a fragile bell of silver rime,
It burst the tomb for freedom sweet and brief
In the young pregnant year at Eastertime;
And many thought it was a sacred sign,
And some called it the resurrection flower;
And I, a pagan, worshiped at its shrine,
Yielding my heart unto its perfumed power.



– Claude McKay (1889-1948)

What does Easter mean for you?

Grace, Mercy and Peace,
Pastor Darren

HOLY WEEK

April 18 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 p.m.

April 21 EASTER SUNDAY 11:00 a.m.

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
will be observed on Thursday and Sunday.**



YOUTH FUNDRAISING LUNCH

APRIL 7, 2019

Following the worship service on Sunday, April 7th, a luncheon will be held to benefit the 14 children and youth attending the annual Montreat Worship and Music Conference. Shawn and Lisa Boltin will prepare chicken perlo and green beans. Dessert will also be provided. Everyone is invited to come and bring friends. Any donations are appreciated. Leftover perlo will be sold for \$20 per gallon. All proceeds help offset the considerable expense of the music conference, which will be held June 16-22.

THANK YOU!!

Thanks to George Ware and Gerald Myers our library has two new bookcases that match the ones we already had. George got the wood donated and an anonymous donor paid the rest. The library is upstairs in the Centre and has books for all ages as well as DVD's and VCR tapes along with the equipment to play them.

Kaye Borgstedt

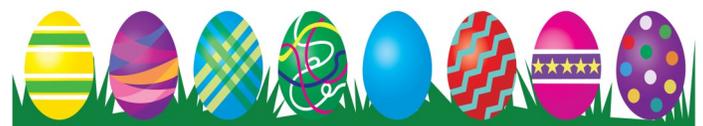
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The annual PCUSA One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on Easter Sunday, April 21. 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.



EASTER EGG HUNT

All children fifth grade and below are invited to join us for the First Presbyterian Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 14. Please meet immediately following worship on the church patio. We hope you'll join us for a fun time! If you would like to help stuff eggs, please contact Sarah Coggins.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IS THURSDAY, MAY 2.

Once again we plan to open our sanctuary for 24 hours of prayer. This year's theme is "Love One Another."

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.



We can rely on the promise that God is with us in every situation.

Our Daily Bread.

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 scripture tells 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 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." Colossians 3.

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



Lord,
sweep away my old sins,
erasing my past for new life in You.

Our Daily Bread.

APRIL CIRCLE MEETINGS

- Circle 1:** Tuesday, April 9 11:30 a.m.
Centre
- Circles 2 & 4:** Tuesday, April 9 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room
- Circle 3:** Monday, April 8 6:00 p.m.
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APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

Prayer Room is upstairs in the Centre. This room is a fantastic retreat from the "real" world. Have you seen it?



LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

At *THE OAKS*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 ♦ 11:30 A.M.

THE OAKS DINING ROOM



To minimize the disruption of residents and guests and insure adequate seating arrangements, reservations must be confirmed by noon on Tuesday, April 2. Call Norma Shaffer (516-6135) if you wish to come. Tickets may be purchased at the Reception

Desk in Woodard Commons.

MORE EXPERIENCES FROM OUR MATTHEW 25:35 CHALLENGE

- ♦ We used our \$25.35 in combination with a challenge from a church we visited that did a Luke 10:27 challenge with \$10.27 for each person present. We added to it and made a donation to *Our Fathers Closet* here at First Pres. in honor of Kim Reed who works so tirelessly for the children who need winter coats.
- ♦ I had been praying for guidance as to who I should give my money to. There are so many people that would benefit from this gift. However, one day in the grocery store I ran in to my neighbor who had lost her husband this past year. We stopped for a minute to chat and she broke down and confessed to me what an extremely hard time she was having emotionally and financially. She had only a few items in her buggy that she could afford. God answered my prayers and showed me who would benefit the most from my Matthew 25:35 money. I put it in her mailbox anonymously with words of encouragement and that God loves her.
- ♦ Gave to a needy man at the Oliver Gospel Mission in Columbia, SC.



**TO MARS AND BEYOND
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 10-14**

Join First Presbyterian June 10-14 for **To Mars And Beyond 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://tmab.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://tmab.cokesburyvbs.com/1stpresbyterian/>.

Sarah Coggins

**BETHELWOODS CAMP-IN-A-VAN
JULY 15-19**

Bethelwoods Camp-In-A-Van will be July 15-19 (9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. until 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 30 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.

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

Sarah Coggins

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS-APRIL

PRESCHOOL: Leslie Lovelace

KINDERGARTEN: Kaye Borgstedt

ELEMENTARY

April 7 Catherine Cuttino

April 14 Jane Holladay

April 21

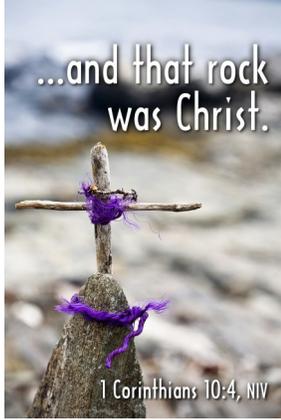
April 28 Susan and Jimmy Smoak

YOUTH: Katherine Smith

SALTSHAKER: Howard and Barbara Shirer

JOHN KNOX: John Shuler

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



April 2019

A GIFT OF WARMTH AND LOVE

Our Father's Closet encourages bargain shopping this time of year while children's coats are on extreme clearance! Coat donations are appreciated year round and may be left in the coat room upstairs in Fellowship Hall. **Always needed:* children's sizes 4 - 16 and adult coats XL, XXL

SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday, May 1, at 6:00 p.m. in the Centre we will host our annual, *Honoring Older People Enthusiastically*. You don't want to miss this event. Good food and entertainment. — Kaye Borgstedt

Sunday, May 5: Homecoming Covered Dish Lunch

GENERAL FUND 2019

For month ending February 28, 2019

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Income	\$43,859.47	\$103,280.57
General Fund Budgeted Expenses	\$35,221.80	\$ 62,722.54
	\$ 8,637.67	\$ 40,558.03