

FIRST
Presbyterian
Church

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Visit us at:

www.fpcburgwv.org

 [Facebook.com/fpcburg](https://www.facebook.com/fpcburg)

WE ARE A NURTURING, VIBRANT
CONGREGATION, REACHING OUT
TO THE COMMUNITY AND
STANDING AS A BEACON
OF CHRIST'S LOVE
AND PROMISE.

Sunday Worship:

8:30 & 10:30 a.m. in person
or livestream on Facebook
at 10:30 a.m.

April 2022

Newsletter Article Deadline is the 15th of each month

If you would like to be added to either our email or postal mailing list, please contact the church office to leave your name and preferred contact information.

304-422-5426 or office@fpcburgwv.org



first things
FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2022

For I
know
that my
Redeemer
lives.

Job 19:25





This past month, we've been entering into the story as we read about the last week of Jesus' life. The book that I'm using as a basis for this series is *Entering the Passion of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. Levine emphasizes welcoming people in a few different chapters. When discussing the temple, Levine notes it was "open to everyone. Men, women, slaves, Jews, Gentiles, free people, rich people, poor people - the Temple was a house of prayer for everyone, and everyone was supposed to feel welcome." In her discussion about the unnamed woman who anoints Jesus, Levine reminds her readers, "Even to walk into a strange church, or a new bible study, is frightening: 'Will I be judged? Will I be welcomed? Will I find a home?'"

I know that we want to grow. We want more young people in the pews. During one of the Bible Studies, we ended up talking about how to welcome visitors for a significant part of the class. We want everyone to come and see just how homey our beautiful church is.

The difficulty is that many people either aren't interested in coming to church, or they already have a church home.

But there are people who are looking for a church community. And there is a community just outside our doors whom we might be able to help.

Parkersburg, as you likely know, has a number of recovering addicts. In response to this need, our beautiful city provides multiple recovery facilities. Unfortunately, there's a stigma for those in recovery. In an effort to be more welcoming of anyone who comes to the church, and to serve a community we haven't focused on before, the Mission Committee is hosting a breakfast between worship services on **April 24th**. Our very own Morgan Bibbee James works with this community, and will be teaching us so that we can work to overcome the prejudices we might have learned, and the fears we might have.

I think we have a great opportunity here to do God's work and welcome anyone who takes a step onto our beautiful campus. Come and learn a little more about the recovery community, so that we might better learn about our neighbors and how to share Christ's love with those around us. So join us on **April 24th at 9:15** for our Mission Breakfast: Overcoming Stigma.



Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Annie



Participants in Worship

April

USHERS

- 3 Justin Bosley
Katie Buchanan
Dalton Cork
Morgan James
- 10 Katie Buchanan
Dalton Cork
Morgan James
Amy Rogers
- 17 Anne Baker
Katie Buchanan
Morgan James
Amy Rogers
- 24 Amy Leach
Ann Leach
Bob & Rita Fish



GREETERS

- 3 Carolyn Rings
- 10 Mikki Bosley
- 17 Carol Sanders
- 24 Kyle Allen
Carl Gheen



LITURGISTS

- 3 Mikki Bosley
- 10 Justin Bosley
- 17 Kathy Hinkley
- 24 Jessica Linville



PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 10

Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.
Baptism of Ryder James
Salad & Sandwich Luncheon

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 14 - 7:00 p.m.

Worship with Communion, followed by
Interactive Stations of the Cross - Harris Room

EASTER SUNDAY - April 17

6:30 a.m. - Sunrise Service / Prayer Garden
10:30 a.m. - Service for Resurrection Day
Easter Egg Hunt following worship
(other activities for children 10 and older)



PW Spring Sale

Friday, April 22, 9 - 4
Saturday, April 23, 9 - noon.

You can help with the Spring Sale by making donations of hot dogs, hot dog buns, burger buns, snack sized bags of chips, and baked goods for dessert (cookies, pie, brownies, etc.) The ladies are also looking for lots of volunteers to help before, during and after the sale. Sign up at the table in the front foyer.



Sale items are being received at the rear entrance by appointment. Call the church office at 304-422-5426 Mon. - Thurs. to make arrangements for someone to meet you there.

The Gathering

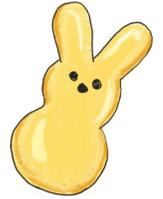
“May the Fourth Be With You”



Mark your calendars now for the first **Gathering** of 2022, on **Wednesday, May 4, at 6 p.m.**

It will be a classic cookout with hot dogs and burgers. Session will provide the meat and you can bring your favorite sides and drinks. Sign-ups will be available in the foyer in April. Details coming soon.

Easter Gift Boxes



The Missions Committee is making Easter gift boxes for the children in the Bright Beginnings daycare, and they can use some help with supplies. New plastic Easter eggs (empty or pre-filled with candy and small toys), and small individually-wrapped candy will be appreciated. Please place your donations in the basket in foyer.



The boxes will be distributed to the daycare on Good Friday (4/15).



*Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer;
Death is strong, but life is stronger.
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right.
Faith and hope triumphant say,
Christ will rise on Easter Day.*

—Phillips Brooks

“Christ did not come into the world that we might understand him, but that we might cling to him, that we might simply let ourselves be swept away by him into the immense event of the resurrection.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Missions & Outreach Community Cleanup



Join us for a **Community Cleanup** project on **Saturday, April 23**. We will meet at the church at **9 a.m.**, then split up into groups to cover specific areas of town. All locations will be in the church's direct community. Supplies will be provided by the Wood County Solid Waste Authority.

Sign-ups for participants will be in the church foyer beginning Sunday, April 3. We hope you will participate in this community outreach.

PALM SUNDAY SALAD & SANDWICH LUNCH

The PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will host a Salad & Sandwich Luncheon on **Sunday, April 10**, following 10:30 worship. All food and drinks will be provided - just bring yourself (and your appetite) and enjoy the good food and fellowship!



Sunday, April 17

All kids are invited to an Easter Egg hunt following 10:30 worship on Easter Sunday. Baskets will be provided.

Children 10 and older are welcome to help the younger kids hunt for eggs, or join in other activities.

April BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday!

Adam Kaufman	8th
Joe Finley	11th
Caspian Day	14th
Bob Dunn	16th
Susan Niday	16th
Bronson Linville	17th
Elsie Coleman	19th
Danielle Scohy	21st
Roy Schleicher	24th
Judi Echard	27th
Marianne Mason	28th
Judi White	29th

Happy Anniversary!

Bob & Dinah Tebay	3rd
Sunny & Jean Percy	4th
Joe & Debra Finley	10th
Joe & Marcie Fragale	19th
Bill & Joyce Mather	21st



GRADUATES

If you or a family member are graduating from high school or college this spring please let us know so that we may properly recognize you on Graduate Sunday. You may contact Kelly Beckett, 304-991-3613, or kellybeckett@gmail.com, or the church office, 304-422-5426, or office@fpcburgwv.org. Please let us know by April 30.

Special Dates in APRIL

- Palm Sunday: April 10
- Maundy Thursday: April 14
- Good Friday: April 15
- Easter Sunday: April 17
- Earth Day: April 22
- Secretaries Day: April 27



The Willows
Mary Anne Danser



SATURDAY STEWARDS

Each week 8 a.m. - noon

Come and join in a time of fellowship as we carry out various projects inside and outside of the church.

We will be meeting every **Saturday at 8 a.m. in the Harris Room**. A light breakfast will be provided. Feel free to come and go anytime you want - all help is appreciated.

For more information please contact Mike Beckett at 304-588-6203, or email facilities@fpcburgwv.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

ARE LOOKING FOR COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

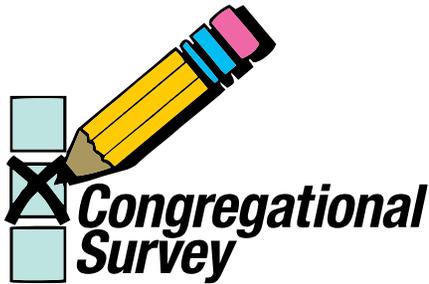


There is a sign-up chart for Coffee Hour on the bulletin board outside the Harris Room. If you would like to be a host, please find an open date and place your name next to it.

The Presbyterian Women will provide: coffee, filters, tea, sweeteners, creamer, napkins, cups, plates, etc. You would only need to provide juice (check the supply first) and a light snack. It can be as simple or as fancy as you want. *(If we keep our regular weekly coffee hour simple, a commemorative event or celebration will seem more special.)*

- ✓ Coffee hour begins at 10:00 and ends at 10:30, as the Worship Service begins. It takes approximately 30 minutes prep time to have coffee ready.
- ✓ There are two pots (for regular & decaf). A half-cup scoop of coffee makes 12 cups, or 1 pot.
- ✓ During warm weather you can make iced tea and/or lemonade.
- ✓ Tablecloths are in the Harris Room closet - you may use the dining table or the island.

If you have any questions see or contact
Yvonne White @304-422-1104.



AND THE SURVEY SAYS....

The results are in. Pastor Annie and the members of Session are using the results to build a long-range Mission Plan. But we aren't waiting. The two most requested things are being planned right now.

Thanks to the requests we heard from you here is some great news to share.

- ◆ The choir is back in rehearsal! It was wonderful to hear them sing on March 20, and will lead worship again on Palm Sunday.
- ◆ On May 4 *The Gathering* will make its 2022 debut. "May the Fourth Be with You" Gathering will be a cookout. The Session will provide the hot dogs and hamburgers - look for a signup sheet to bring your favorite side dish and drinks. Details to follow.
- ◆ A multi-church summer VBS or Creative Camp is being planned.
- ◆ A cruise on the Valley Gem sternwheeler is being planned. More details will come as plans are finalized.

SURVEY RESULTS INCLUDE:

Top picks for generating great attendance at worship services:

Reinstate the choir, provide more opportunities for children to participate, closely followed by creating a Saturday evening contemporary service.

What activities would you enjoy during the week?

Bible Study was the top choice, followed by learning more about things like birding, Bible History and things of interest. Doing craft projects together also was among the top three choices.

How do we get more children and young families involved with the church?

Creating activities for young families with children to do is the top recommendation. Sunday School for young age groups was also a strong request.



What activities would you like us to offer so you can invite your friends?

By far the top choice was to host regular dinners, like The Gathering. This was followed by special musical events and special holiday dinners, like our recent Leprechaun Luncheon.

Forty percent said they would come to events at church weekly, with 28 percent saying they would come every other week. Afternoon and evening are the preferred times for these events. One person suggested having mid-day live streaming lessons on Facebook.



How do we get involved with our community?

Creating volunteer opportunities for members to take part in was the top answer.

There were many individual comments with suggestions and requests, including making better use of our grounds, more advertising of the church and its activities, improving our children's ministry and worship services.

The Session has received all answers and additional comments.

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WEBSITE: www.fpcpburwv.org / [facebook.com/fpcpburg](https://www.facebook.com/fpcpburg)

STAFF

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Larry Wiseman, Sexton	mobile: 304-482-4966

APRIL 2022



May 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 	28	29	30	31	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 8:00 AM Saturday Stewards
3 Fifth Sunday in Lent Communion 8:30 AM Worship Service (CH) 10:00 AM Coffee Hour (HR) 10:15 - Coffee with the Pastor 10:30 AM Worship Service (SAN) 2:00 PM Juliana Ringers 3:00 PM Sanctuary Choir	4 6:00 PM Deacons' Mtg. 7:00 PM KOM Knitters	5 5:00 PM Worship & Celebration Comm. 7:30 PM Cub Scouts Roundtable	6 3:15 PM Staff Mtg. 6:30 PM Lenten Bible Study 	7 4:00 PM Cub Scouts / Webelos crossover 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9 8:00 AM Saturday Stewards
10 Palm / Passion Sunday 8:30 AM Worship Service (CH) 10:00 AM Coffee Hour (HR) 10:15 - Coffee with the Pastor 10:30 AM Worship Service (SAN) 11:30 AM Salad & Sandwich Luncheon	11 6:00 PM Session meets	12 10:30 AM Miriam/Priscilla Circles 5:30 PM Founders' Trust 7:00 PM Facilities Mgmt.	13 6:30 PM Lenten Bible Study 	14 Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Worship Communion Interactive Stations of the Cross Newsletter Deadline	15 OFFICE CLOSED Good Friday  No School in Wood Co. Missions: Easter gift boxes to Daycare	16 8:00 AM Saturday Stewards
17 EASTER SUNDAY 2-Cents-a-Meal Offering 6:30 AM Sunrise Service (PG) 10:00 AM Coffee Hour (HR) 10:15 - Coffee with the Pastor 10:30 AM Worship Service (SAN) Easter Egg Hunt & Children's Activities	18 OFFICE CLOSED 	19	20 PW Setup for Sale	21 PW Setup for Sale 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM Juliana Ringers 7:15 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir	22 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 AM PW Sale 	23 8:00 AM Saturday Stewards 9:00 AM PW Sale 9:00 AM Missions: Community Cleanup
24 8:30 AM Worship Service (CH) 9:15 AM Missions Breakfast (FH) 10:30 AM Worship Service (SAN)	25	26 12:30 PM PW Board Mtg.	27	28 6:30 PM Juliana Ringers 7:15 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 8:00 AM Saturday Stewards