



Sunday, April 2: First Sunday Fellowship

Thursday, April 6: Maundy Thursday noon service

Thursday, April 6: Maundy Thursday evening service (5:30)

Friday, April 7: Seven Last Words Good Friday service

Wednesday, April 12: My Sisters & Me at Fayrays

Tuesday, April 18: Presbyterian Women

Tuesday, April 25: Session



Session Minutes

Attendance: Moderator Rev. Janice West and Clerk Mike Dumas.

Elders: Archer, Bennett, Brock, Byrd, Dumas, Dwight, Green, Mahony, Putman and Worrel.

Previous Minutes: approved the minutes of the previous meeting of February 28, 2023.

Committee Reports:

Worship: Received the minutes of the Worship Committee.

Mission: Received the minutes of the Mission Committee. The Mission Committee requested the Session to approve the transfer of \$1,000 from 301 Special Missions to 347 FPC Local Missions. The Elders approved the Committee's request.

Membership: Received the minutes of the Membership Committee.

CE: Received the minutes of the Christian Education Committee.

Finance: Received the Finance Committee's minutes and approved the Financial Statement.

Personnel: Received the minutes of the Committee and approved them.

Deacons: The Elders heard from Elder Archer on the most recent Deacon's meeting.

New Business:

- Assigned responsibilities for the Elders in the two Communion scheduled in April.

Announcements: Next meeting is set for April 25, 2023.



A note from Janice

During the Lenten season I often have a discipline of re-reading some favorite books. I lean toward quirky and offbeat characters (that should be no surprise) and among my favorites for the season are: *Handling Sin*, by Michael Malone; *Lamb*; and *Chocolat*, by Joanne Harris. While I have read each of these many times, the writing continually draws me in, and the stories of redemption and reconciliation (remember those words?) make me smile.

This season, while unpacking books (the life of an Interim Pastor, always unpacking something!) I came upon a book I had not re-read in years. It is Russell Rathbun's *Post-Rapture Radio: Lost Writings from a Failed Revolution*. It is a fable, packed in the realities of our world, which explores "the often uneasy relationship between authentic faith and its cultural trappings." I had forgotten how much I enjoyed this book! In the portion I read this morning, Rev. Lamblove is giving a talk to the Rotary Club, and is asked the question: Is reading the Bible important to preparing a sermon?" This is how he replied: "Preaching begins with reading the Bible and asking questions. (pastor's note: see why I like this?) Asking real questions of the Bible. Questions you don't already know the answers to. If you already know the answers, they are not real questions. You are not really reading the Bible. If you bring these fake questions into your sermon, you are just preaching the Absorbed Reading of the text. The congregation already knows the answers. This, then, is not a sermon; it is an agreement. At best a patting each other on the back. At worst very boring. A real question is not an agreement; it is an invitation. It is engaging. The people may be confused but they will not be bored. . .Some verses seem to make no sense, or they seem to contain no hint of the Good News. If you find the right questions, you will find the Good News. If it scares you or bugs you or dumbfounds you, that is a real question. If you to think about it for more than twenty minutes, that is a real question. That is really reading the Bible. . .If you could answer all the questions raised in the Holy Scripture about the one true God of mercy who redeemed the world by allowing his creation to kill him and then made that very murder the means for the salvation of the world, by the time you are, say, twenty years old, or thirty, or fifty, or one hundred - the you have the wrong God. . .Or the wrong question." (pp 56-57, *Post-Rapture Radio*)



A note from Janice continued

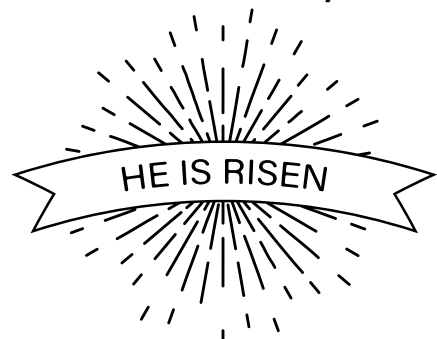
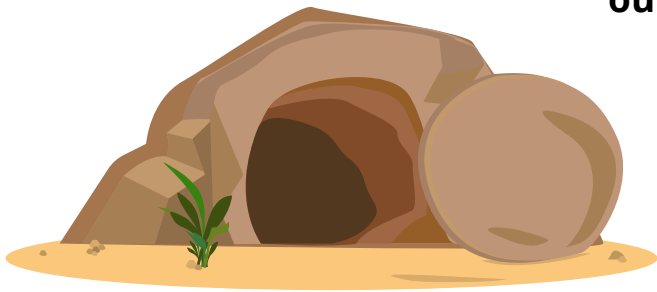
We are closing in on the final week and days of this Holy Lenten season. . . a season where we have invited you to ask questions of the text, find yourself in the readings, and maybe see the Holy Texts with a vision not seen before. We all have an absorbed reading of the texts from years of sermons and Christian Education. It is easy to fall back on what we know. I try to find something new in these stories every time I examine them. (either that, or I really am beginning to forget things, but that is a whole 'nuther article, we would say!)

The same must be said of Holy Week. We start with the drama of Palm Sunday – the parade through the streets, and continue with the encounters of the week, and through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday – to come to the enlightening and unfolding drama of Easter. Just as you would never read only the first and last chapters of a book (you wouldn't, would you?) we cannot think of attending Palm Sunday and then blithely show up for Easter. There are important questions for us to ponder throughout the week!

We invite you to show up during the week. Show up for the Ecumenical Mid-day services. Show up for Communion and the story of our Servant Lord around the Table on Maundy Thursday. Show up for the austere beauty of Good Friday, as we experience the hearing of the Seven Last Words of Christ in music, scripture and prayer. Pause on Holy Saturday and ask questions of your life. . . especially your life of faith. . . and examine how asking questions of the text, our lives and our faith has impacted you this Holy Season. Then, and only then, come for Easter day worship – ready to blurt out the words of faith (Christ is Risen! – note: anytime someone says those words during the Easter season, the appropriate response always is: He/Christ is risen, indeed!)

God, be with us we pray, as we walk, as we question, as we seek the faith, in this our Lenten Journey.

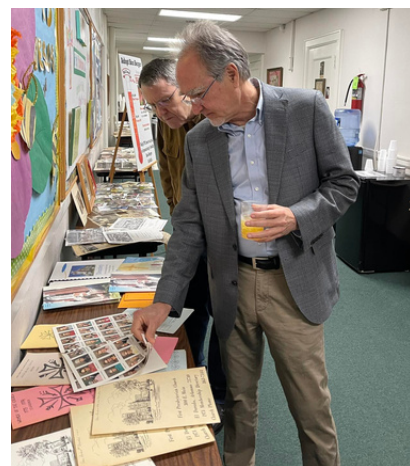
Pastor Janice

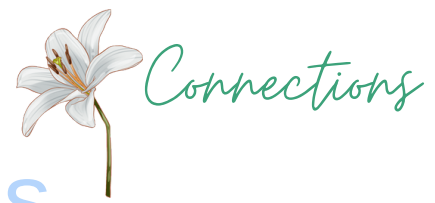




Connections

Thanks to everyone who came to
celebrate First Presbyterian Church's
177th anniversary!





Holy Week Services

Palm/ Passion Sunday: April 2

10:00 a.m. - Worship

**SEEKING: HONEST QUESTIONS FOR
DEEPER FAITH-
WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?**

Maundy Thursday: April 6

5:30 p.m. - Worship

-Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**SEEKING: HONEST QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER
FAITH-
WILL YOU WASH MY FEET?**

Good Friday: April 7

7:00 p.m. - Worship

-Proclamation of the Word in Music:

The Seven Last Words of Christ By Theodore DuBois

**SEEKING: HONEST QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER FAITH-
WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?**

COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Noon- Worship

Monday: **First United Methodist Church**

Rev. Janice West, preaching

Tuesday: **St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

Dr. Jonathan Kelley, preaching

Wednesday: **First Baptist Church**

Rev. Robert Wetherington, preaching

Thursday: **First Presbyterian Church**

Dr. Walter "Bubba" Smith, preaching

12:30 lunch in the Fellowship Hall. (\$5)





Calendar of Events

Happy BIRTHDAY

1 Laura Allen

5 Keaton Eggleston

12 Melanie Allen

15 Jimmy Bennett

17 Alison Jones

19 Robin Geurin

22 Katy Callaway Hayes

25 Ahna Edington

26 Ka'Marion Kidd

27 Bill Kaldem

Happy ANNIVERSARY

3 Elise & Kerlin Drake

9 Sonya & Bill Archer

22 Karen & Curt Morrill



Mon. Apr. 3 12:00 pm Holy Week @ FUMC

Tue. Apr. 4 12:00 pm Holy Week @ St. Mary's

Wed. Apr. 5 12:00 pm Holy Week @ FBC

Thur. Apr. 6 12:00 pm Holy Week @ FPC

Thur. Apr. 6 5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service

Fri. Apr. 7 7:00 pm Seven Last Words

Tue. Apr. 11 5:30 pm CE Meeting

5:30 pm Membership Meeting

5:30 pm Mission Meeting

5:30 pm Worship Meeting

Wed. Apr. 12 11:30 am My Sisters & Me

Mon. Apr. 17 4:00 pm Finance Meeting

Tue. Apr. 18 11:50 am Presbyterian Women

Tue. Apr. 25 5:30 pm Session

ONLINE WITH FPC

Facebook

Go “like” our
Facebook page for
updated information.

Website

Check out our webpage for
updated information at
www.fpceldorado.org



First Presbyterian Church

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