

Second Edition

APRIL 2020 ISSUE



On Second Thought...

Well, here we are. I am sitting at home – because that's where we are these days – writing this for the newsletter, thinking about all of the things that usually go into the newsletter in the month when we celebrate Easter, but won't this year.

Listening to the health experts on the news, reading the latest predictions from the various health agencies, and following the most in-depth thinking on the spread of COVID-19, all of them say that *if* we continue to practice good social distancing and keep large groups from gathering, then the peak of this crisis will come in about 3 weeks. Since Maundy Thursday is *two* weeks away as I write this, it seems highly unlikely that we will be together for Easter Sunday, which is April 12th, and also highly unlikely that we will be together for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

So, we are proceeding with the assumption that worship on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter will be online. What does that look like in this time of social distancing? How can we set those times apart while we, ourselves, are apart? We have some ideas of what we are going to do, but let's just admit right now – it's going to be weird; it's going to be different.

If we, indeed, do have to worship online on Easter, we are not going to try and recreate what we normally do on Easter Sunday. We will not have a bunch of hydrangeas and lilies, there will be no brass instruments, the choir will not be present to sing a rousing anthem, the organ will not play majestic hymns. We will save all of that for our first Sunday back together; *that* will be our celebration of Easter – with the flowers and the choir and the brass and the organ and all the things.

We talk a lot at Christmas about rediscovering the *true* meaning of Christmas, about how Christmas isn't about presents and Santa and all the rest. Maybe this will give us an opportunity to rediscover the *true* meaning of Easter.



When you stop and think about it, there were no lilies or choirs or trumpets on that first Easter morning, just two perplexed women standing with their spices at an empty tomb at sunrise, and it didn't dampen the power of that day. That's because, when we get right down to it, Easter is not about flowers and brass and choirs. It is about the seven most powerful words in human history, spoken to those women: *He is not here, he has risen!*

In this time of social distancing, we may not be sure when we will be able to gather again. However, we can be sure of one thing. God quite emphatically did not practice social distancing. The Incarnation is all about God entering our experience, not standing back from us. God came to earth in Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, at Christmas. God ate and drank and laughed and loved and asked us to love each other on Maundy Thursday. God suffered, was tortured, and died for us on the cross, experiencing the pain and loneliness and isolation and anguish that only humans can feel on Good Friday. Then, on Easter morning, God triumphed over death, rising from the grave and leaving an empty tomb behind, so that we might have eternal life.

It is not in God's nature to be distant. All other gods worshiped around the world practice social distancing. They ask their followers to come to them. Christianity is the *only* religion on the planet where the God who is worshiped comes to *us*. God enters our experience. God will not, and does not ever, distance himself from us. God has not done this in the past, God is not doing it now, and God will not do it ever.

This is the message of our faith. This is the overarching theme throughout all of Scripture. This is the true meaning of Easter, a meaning what we have the chance to rediscover and celebrate this year, and every year beyond!

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Worship and Celebration



Upcoming Sermon Texts & Topics

Here are the upcoming sermon Scriptures and topics for April:

April 5th Jesus' Entry Into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11)

April 12th The Resurrection (Matthew 28:1-10)

April 19th Being Sent Like Disciples (John 20:19-31)

April 26th The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)

MARCH VISITORS

FIRST TIME VISITORS

ERIN ARMSTRONG BUTLER
ASHLY DANIEL
SUE JACOX
KIM, ALEX, HANNAH, AND EVAN PRINGLE

REGULAR VISITORS

ERIC BATTS
KIRSTY BLEYL
LINDA BOYD
JULIAN, PATRICIA, AND GEORGE BRUNNER
ZACH BURCH & GINNY WILLIAMS
EUGENE AND JUNE BURKE
ANDREW BUTLER
ALEX COOPER & RUTHANN FROBERG
LINDSEY COPE AND ELIZABETH SEASTRUNK
CARTER DEPOY
WYATT DEROCHE

KIRA EVANS
CINDY & GORDON FERGUSON
RUTHANN FROBERG
DAVID HORNE
DERRYL KASLER
MARY LYNN MARKS
ROB MEYER
HENRY NAFF
MEGAN THIBERT
KAREN VANCE

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/4 MATT CASEY
4/6 LAUREN DODSON
4/7 DEAN FARMER
4/9 FRANCES JOHNSON
4/10 DOTTIE BULGIN
4/11 NATALIE PRUITT
4/14 KAREN CLEVELAND

4/15 MARY HOWARD
4/19 LAURA TURNER
4/22 ALEX ROBINSON
4/23 DICK DODSON
4/23 DALE HENLEY
4/24 ANNE ARMSTRONG
4/28 ANN SIMPSON

VBS

Mark your calendars!

During the first week in **June (1st-5th)**, the youth will be hosting and participating in VBS, but it's not the VBS that you're used to.

Instead, VBS stands for our Very Best Service.

Each day, we will travel to a different place in Knoxville to do a service project, and we hope that you'll join us.

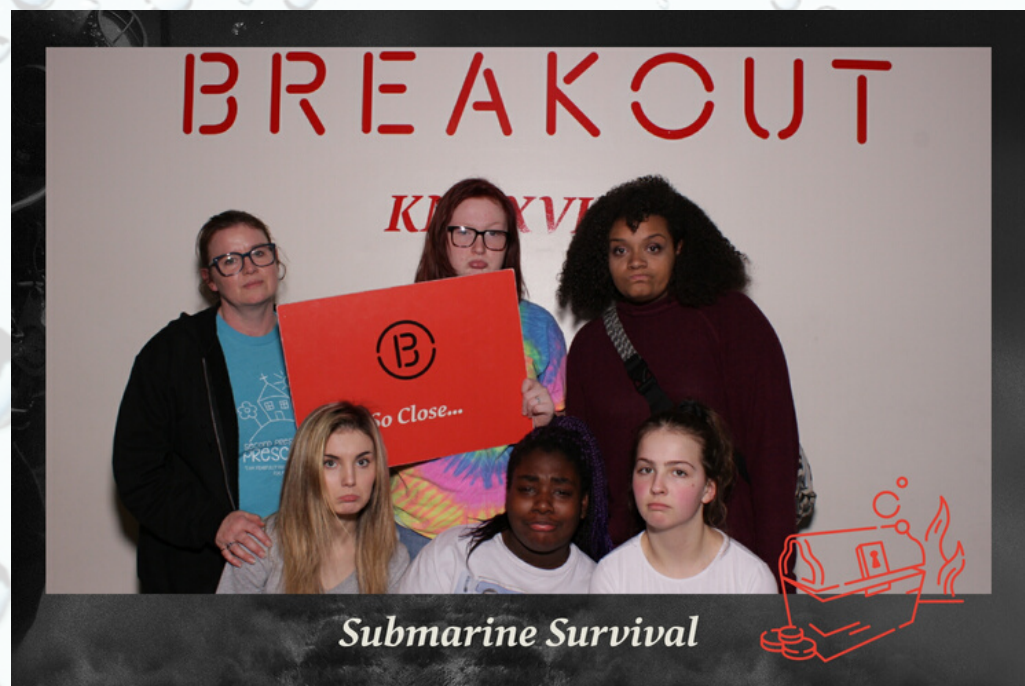
While this project is being hosted by the youth, **it is open to the whole congregation**, we hope you'll plan to join us in serving our neighbors together.

FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



We had a great time at our breakout room last month! We were split into two separate groups - boys (and Sarah) and girls. Neither group was able to breakout but both were SO close and had an awesome time working together to try and solve the puzzles.

Since church activities remain suspended, we will postpone our April First Sunday Fellowship; and we'll look forward to the time when we'll be able to gather again!



CARE & COMPASSION

Lunch Bunch

LUNCH BUNCH IS SUSPENDED UNTIL ALL IN-PERSON SPC CHURCH ACTIVITIES ARE ACTIVE AGAIN. STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY! WE HOPE TO RESUME OUR EVENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

- MARIANN THUESEN AND JOHN REYNOLDS

Service & Outreach



Morgan Scott Project for Cooperative Christian Concerns is a nonprofit located in Deer Lodge, Tennessee, serving two of the poorest counties in the state. Founded in 1972 by two ministers, it offers a variety of services and programs for the area.

The Thrift Store provides reasonably-priced clothing and household items. Home repair for the elderly, disabled, and needy is done by volunteer teams from across the country. Every Friday fresh bread, meat, produce and dairy products (provided by Second Harvest) is distributed to the needy. Help with transportation, fees, tuition, books, testing, and baby-sitting is available to adults taking job training at Tennessee College of Applied Technology.

Vegetable seeds, plants and fertilizer are provided to more than 350 families to enable them to grow their own food. Our Presbyterian Women have donated to the Seed Program for several years.

School children receive new backpacks and supplies each year. Working with other area nonprofits, the Project provides Christmas gifts to over 2,200 children.

According to the executive director, Crystal Tompkins, the goal “is to help them be able to better themselves and do that in a way that is not degrading or humiliating.”

Morgan Scott is supported by the Presbytery of East Tennessee and several churches, including Second Church through our annual budget.



Presbyterian Women is the beneficiary of Endowment Funds set up in memory of Hazel Butten. There are yearly earnings income available from which PW makes grants generally each year. If you know of a worthy effort for the church or any nonprofit organization, you may submit an application setting forth the purpose for which you're requesting funding along with other requested information. Those applications can be found in the Atrium. Initially the request was to have the applications into the church office by Monday, April 13; however, those dates are likely to be put on hold due to the corona virus challenges we're facing world wide. These funds have been used for a wide variety of efforts including helping Louise Josephson when she went to Princeton Seminary, specific teaching materials for the preschool, scholarship support for the preschool, and for many community outreach programs including (but not limited to) Friends of TN Babies with Special Needs, Montgomery Village, Interfaith Health Clinic, etc. Now is the time to plan ahead and gather the needed information to submit a request.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

The recent storms in Middle Tennessee have claimed at least 24 lives. Many more have lost homes and livelihoods.

As always, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be a part of the recovery process. Best known by its acronym, PDA, the organization is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. In addition to key responders like the Red Cross and FEMA, PDA works with other faith-based partners. Some church groups will go into disaster areas to provide immediate needs; PDA's focus, however, is the long-term recovery of communities.

While churches within the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee sustained little to no damage, many of their neighborhoods have been devastated. PDA has reached out to the presbytery staff to offer any assistance that might be needed down the road. We anticipate that there will be ongoing needs, perhaps even opportunities for mission teams.

PDA's core budget, including staff and administrative costs, receives funding through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, typically received on Easter Sunday. Its program work is additionally funded through designated gifts.

If you would like to make a special contribution toward the Nashville recovery efforts, you may designate your check by noting PDA account DR000015 in the memo line, or by donating online at <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/>.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received on Easter Sunday April 12th, **or our first Sunday back.**

Where God is, there is hope for the suffering and the vulnerable.

Gifts are divided among three programs:

- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** that works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.
- **Presbyterian Hunger Program** that takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.
- **Self-Development of People** that invest in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in answering God's call.

Westview Safety Patrol Fundraiser

**Thanks to your generosity,
we raised \$3,725 to help
West View Safety Patrol
students!**



Stewardship

FEBRUARY BUDGET REPORT

| | February | YTD | Budget |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total Giving | \$91,837 | \$187,771 | \$771,833 |
| Total Expenses | \$59,120 | \$110,438 | \$777,908 |
| Excess/(Shortage) | \$32,717 | \$77,333 | (\$6,075) |

Highlights from the March Session Meeting

- Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.
- Received the Treasurer's Report.
- Added John Henley to the list of members authorized to sign checks for the church when they are approved by the Treasurer.
- Approved the payment to Barger and Nix for the organ repair and maintenance out of the Music Fund.
- Approved moving communion from the first Sunday in April (4-5-2020) to Maundy Thursday (4-9-2020).
- Approved entering into a contract with Barger and Nix for bi-annual organ maintenance and tuning.
- The Book of Order says the rolls of the congregation shall be reviewed annually. After review, the Session approved moving several names from Active to In-Active.
- Approved the motion to suspend all in-person church activities indefinitely. The Session will meet by video conferencing weekly and will notify the congregation when regular activities will resume. The preschool remains open as of right now.
- Approved the motion that, during this outbreak, the staff will be paid as normal.
- Approved the motion that all outside groups adhere to the suspension of in-person meetings at the Church policy.

hello APRIL

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|---|---|--|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| | | | 1 4p Line Dancing 4 ³ p Handbells 5 ³ p Wed Nt Dinner 6p Bible Study 7p Chancel Choir | 2 | 3 Church Office Closed | 4 |
| 5 9 ³ a Sunday School 11a Worship Time 12p Food & Friends | 6 4 ³ p The Cross Ministry 5p BSF | 7 9a Staff Meeting 11 ³⁰ a Lunch Bunch 5p Facilities Ministry 6p Care & Compassion 6p Stewardship 7p Boy Scouts 7p Service & Outreach 8 ³ p Men's Basketball | 8 4p Line Dancing 4 ³ p Handbells 5 ³ p Wed Nt Dinner 6p Bible Study 7p Chancel Choir | 9 | 10 GOOD FRIDAY Church Office Closed Preschool Closed  | 11 10a Elder Training |
| 12 EASTER SUNDAY 9 ³ a Sunday School 11a Worship Time  | 13 EASTER MONDAY Church Office Closed 5p BSF 6p Discipleship Meeting | 14 10a PW Bible Study 6p Worship Ministry 7p Boy Scouts 8 ³ p Men's Basketball | 15 3p 2 nd Readers 4p Line Dancing 4 ³ p Handbells 5 ³ p Wed Nt Dinner 6p Bible Study 7p Chancel Choir | 16 10a Arts & Crafts 4 ³ p CCR&R Event | 17 Church Office Closed | 18 |
| 19 9 ³ a Sunday School 11a Worship Time 12p Food & Friends | 20 12p Preschool Board Mtg 5p BSF May 2nd Edition Deadline | 21 9a Staff Meeting 6p Session Meeting 7p Boy Scouts 8 ³ p Men's Basketball | 22 4p Line Dancing 4 ³ p Handbells 5 ³ p Wed Nt Dinner 6p Bible Study 7p Chancel Choir | 23 | 24 Church Office Closed 9a CCR&R Event | 25 |
| 26 9 ³ a Sunday School 11a Worship Time 12p Food & Friends | 27 5p BSF | 28 9a FISH Pantry 10a House & Garden 7p Boy Scouts 8 ³ p Men's Basketball | 29 8a Preschool Training 4p Line Dancing 4 ³ p Handbells 5 ³ p Wed Nt Dinner 6p Bible Study 7p Chancel Choir | 30 8a Preschool Training | <u>PLEASE NOTE:</u> As of the printing of this newsletter, all <u>in-person</u> church activities are still suspended indefinitely. This calendar reflects previously scheduled activities You will be notified when in-person activities resume. Please visit 2ndpres.org for the most recent updates! | |



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THE SECOND EDITION
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2829 KINGSTON PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

*Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace,
we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community,
following Jesus and serving him in the world.*

ELDERS

CLASS OF 2020

Jimmy Cheek
Clara Hardin
Doug Matthews
Margaret Walther

CLASS OF 2021

Monica Casey
Betsy Foster
John Henley
Cleston Jones

CLASS OF 2022

Dean Farmer
Margie Gill
Patricia Kennedy
Marty McLean

MINISTRY TEAMS & MODERATORS

Worship & Celebration

Doug Matthews
Betsy Foster

Discipleship

Monica Casey
Patricia Kennedy

Service & Outreach

Clara Hardin

Care & Compassion

Margaret Walther
Marty McLean

Stewardship

Jimmy Cheek
John Henley
Dean Farmer

Preschool Board

Cleston Jones