

# First Presbyterian Press

"He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:6

Volume 25, Issue 3, March 2024

Dear friends in Christ,

We have arrived in the month of March when we celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter this year. The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is one of those teachings that inspires me to keep believing in a brighter future.

Picture the disciples, after the death of Jesus: They were very sad, disappointed, and gloomy. Their great master was gone. They wondered in their hearts: Would life be the same? How come this wonderful teacher who performed lots of miracles was no longer here. Is there hope after this?

Many times, we feel the same way. Life can get overwhelming and exhausting at times. Things don't look the way it used to be. The challenges and hardships seem to be increasing both in the local and national area. There are wars and violence without end. Where do we find hope? Where is God in all of this?

Yet for Christians, the resurrection of Jesus Christ shows us the way forward even in the midst of challenges and death itself. In this Lent season and Easter, I invite you to ponder about the life-giving meaning of Easter.

For Peter too, there was no hope. He was sad about his master Jesus no longer being there.

But I love how the Song 'He is Alive' by Don Francisco and the Gaither Vocal Band, described the excitement of Peter when he encountered the risen Lord. I hope and pray that you will experience the same joy and a new beginning in your life this Easter:

*... Then suddenly the air was filled with a strange and sweet perfume,  
Light that came from everywhere drove shadows from the room.  
Then Jesus stood before me with His arms held open wide,  
And I fell down on my knees and clung to Him and cried.*

*Then He raised me to my feet and as I looked into His eyes,  
Love was shining out from Him like sunlight from the sky.  
Guilt and my confusion disappeared in sweet release,  
And every fear I'd ever had just melted into peace.*

*He's alive, He's alive, He's alive, and I'm forgiven  
Heavens gates are open wide. He's alive!*

Happy Easter everyone!

In Christ,

*Pastor Noé Juarez*

## Officer Duties

|         | <b>Elder</b>     | <b>Deacon</b>   | <b>Co-Deacon</b> |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Mar. 3  | Sonny Wooten     | Randa Scott     | Jo Barrow        |
| Mar. 10 | Susan Stackhouse | Marilyn Bateman | Sally Bardin     |
| Mar. 17 | Toby Brown       | John Fidler     | Sally Bardin     |
| Mar. 24 | Evelyn Rose      | John Walston    | Marilyn Bateman  |
| Mar. 31 | Sonny Wooten     | John Walston    | Jo Barrow        |



### **For the month of March 2024**

Toby Brown, Jason Blackburn, Barbara Bradshaw

## **CONGREGATIONAL BOOK CLUB**

The Congregational Nurture Committee (CNC) invites everyone to join the Congregational Book Club. "[The River We Remember](#)" by William Kent Krueger.

Leader: Mrs. Lynn Branch

The in-person discussion is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Parlor. Childcare will be provided upon prior request.

# March 2024 Christian Ed. Events

| Sunday                                   | Monday                     | Tuesday | Wednesday                   | Thursday | Friday                                   | Saturday                    |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                          |                            |         |                             |          | 1                                        | 2                           |
| 3<br>Young<br>Presbyterians<br>2-3:30pm  | 4<br>Out                   | 5       | 6<br>Bible Study<br>5:30pm  | 7        | 8                                        | 9                           |
| 10                                       | 11<br>Out                  | 12      | 13<br>Bible Study<br>5:30pm | 14       | 15<br>Parent's<br>Night<br>Out 6-<br>8pm | 16                          |
| 17<br>Young<br>Presbyterians<br>2-3:30pm | 18<br>Out                  | 19      | 20<br>Bible Study<br>5:30pm | 21       | 22                                       | 23<br>Easter<br>Celebration |
| 24<br>Palm Sunday                        | 25<br>Anna Kate<br>Leonard | 26      | 27                          | 28       | 29                                       | 30                          |
| 31<br>Easter<br>Sunday                   |                            |         |                             |          |                                          |                             |

March 3, Young Presbyterians: Sin

March 6, Bible Study: Satan's First Temptation.

March 13, Bible Study: Sin enters the world through Adam.

March 15, Parent's Night Out: St. Patrick's Day Theme.

March 17, Young Presbyterians: Sin separates from God and each other.

March 20, Bible Study: Sin brings judgement.

March 23, Easter Celebration:

March 27, Bible Study: God's promise of salvation. \* Children's Bible Study



## March Birthdays!



3 Mrs. Lauren Metzler

18 Mr. Demis Perez

3 Ms. Grace Evans

19 Mrs. Hannah Rouse

5 Mr. Sam Hunter

19 Mr. Philip Brogden

5 Mr. Trotter Sumner

22 Mrs. Emily Lewis

6 Mr. Jay Kinsey

24 Mrs. Lynn Branch

9 Mrs. Sarah Evans

25 Dr. Sherman Hawkins

9 Mr. Thomas Sumner

25 Ms. Anna Kate Leonard

11 Mrs. Meredith Gurley

25 Mrs. Sandra Franklin

11 Mr. Sonny Wooten

26 Dr. Joe McLamb

12 Mr. Dalton Bolles

26 Mrs. Ann Hunter

14 Mrs. Elva Graham

27 Mr. Matthew Burgess

15 Mrs. June Fields

29 Mr. Bill Corbin

15 Mrs. Dianne Finan

30 Mrs. Tiffany Rouse

*\*From the Congregational Nurture Committee\**

**Applications for the Education Scholarship** are available in the office at this time. FPC seeks to nurture and support our young members training for vocations and careers. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2024.

**Ear buds to amplify the sanctuary microphones** are available from the ushers in the Narthex.  
*"I hear and understand every word better than a hearing aid"*  
Testimony from Ellen Best

## *FPC Foundation Applications!*

The FPC Foundation annually awards grants to organizations for the purpose of promoting the mission of the church, "With Christ our Savior as model and the Holy Spirit as guide, we gather to worship God, and go forth to serve, sharing our faith and God's love." fulfilling the teachings of Scripture (Deut. 6:4-6; Micah 6:8; Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:8; and James 1:27).

The FPC Foundation applications are now open and are available on the church website and the church office. **The last date to turn in your application is March 31<sup>st</sup>.** Please share this information with our community.

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Presbyterian Women and friends, please join us for Bible study and fellowship. Kathryn Spicer will present our Bible study, this is the seventh lesson from our series based on Bible stories involving sacred encounters with Jesus. All women in our congregation are invited to come to one of these meetings. The lessons are meaningful and the fellowship is a blessing to all who attend.

**Evening circle, Monday, March 4, 7:00 p.m., parlor or Morning circle, Tuesday, March 5, 10:00 a.m., parlor.**

#### **Easter Lilies:**

If you would like to place a name on the memorial or honor list and share in the cost of the Easter lilies, please use available envelopes in the pew racks. You may also email the church at [fpcgold@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:fpcgold@ncrrbiz.com). Cost is \$10.00 per name and the deadline is March 24.



**The flowering of the Cross:** will be done after Sunrise Service and after the Easter Worship Service on the front lawn. Please bring flowers from your yard for the flowering of the cross.

## FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

- A HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers who came out and worked tirelessly to sort and organize clothing for the Annual Clothing Giveaway, the volunteers who helped bring clothing downstairs and set up on Sunday, the volunteers who picked up clothing and brought it to the church, office staff who supported us during the week and the volunteers who worked on Saturday morning to help individuals find needed items, load items and clean up! Without you we could not provide this valuable outreach to those in need in our community. YOU ARE ALL AMAZING! THANK YOU!!!♥☐



### UPCOMING MISSION OPPORTUNITY DATES

- **Chiapas Mission Trip 2024**
  - **Mar. 3** - Chiapas Mission Trip Interest Meeting immediately after church in the library. Trip dates are June 22-28, 2024.
- **Mar. 17 - Moment for Missions** - Bud Fidler will talk about the Carver Heights Backpack Buddies Program that provides food for identified children on the weekend.
- **Mar. 31 - 5th Sunday Mission Offering** - Monies collected will be used for food for the Carver Heights Backpack Buddies Program.
- **April 16 - Red Cross Blood Drive 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM** in the gym.



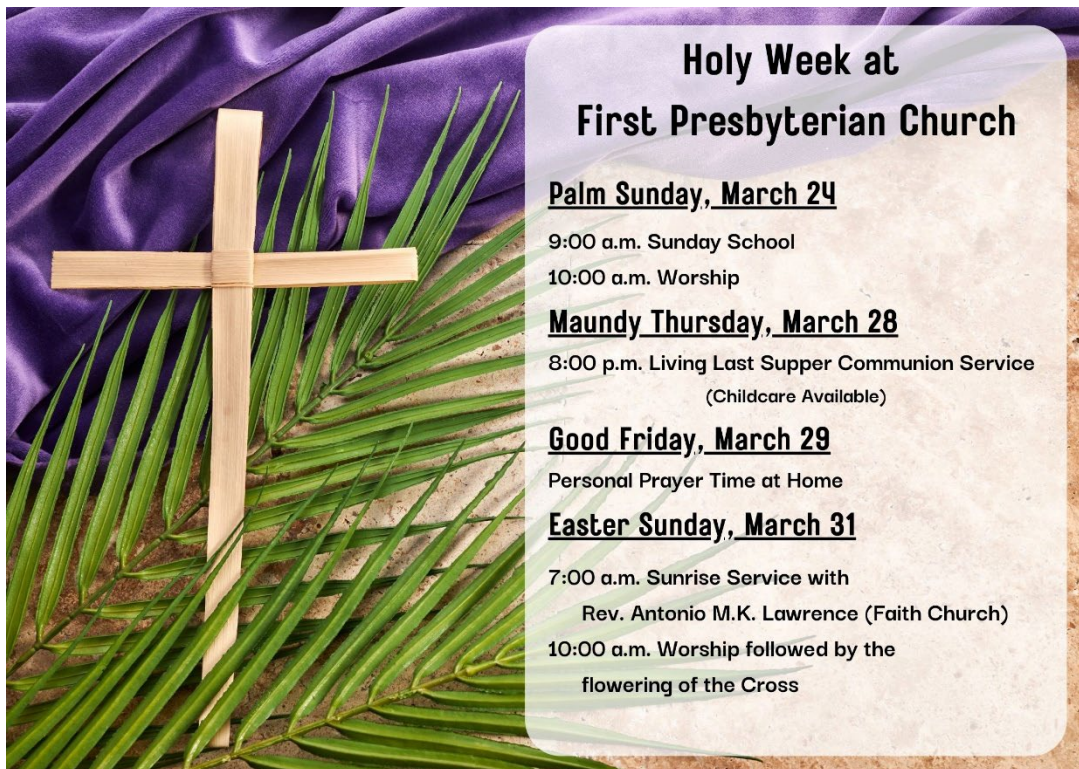
Please prayerfully consider volunteering for any or all of these opportunities to help with mission projects in our community and beyond. If you have any questions, please see any member of the Mission Committee (Teresa Smith, Ann and Sam Hunter, Bud Fidler, Carol Branch, John Walston, Kathy Daniels, Coleen Leeper, Eddie Radford)

## SPRING PRESBYTERIAN SOCIAL

**Sunday, April 14, 2024, 5:00-7:00 P.M.**

Mark your calendar for our next Presbyterian Social which will be at the home of Kent and Melissa Warren, 425 Dogwood Trail in Walnut Creek. Directions: Enter Walnut Creek off Highway 70 East and follow Walnut Creek Drive to the 3<sup>rd</sup> left turn, Dogwood Trail. Follow Dogwood Trail to the 9<sup>th</sup> house on the right. Remember to be mindful of the 30 mph speed limit in Walnut Creek!

Our socials are an excellent way to mingle and fellowship with church members and friends, enjoy delicious appetizers and beverages, which are all provided for your enjoyment. This is your chance to get acquainted with those people you see but don't really have an opportunity to chat with during worship. Hope to see you there!



**Holy Week at  
First Presbyterian Church**

**Palm Sunday, March 24**  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Worship

**Maundy Thursday, March 28**  
8:00 p.m. Living Last Supper Communion Service  
(Childcare Available)

**Good Friday, March 29**  
Personal Prayer Time at Home

**Easter Sunday, March 31**  
7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service with  
Rev. Antonio M.K. Lawrence (Faith Church)  
10:00 a.m. Worship followed by the  
flowering of the Cross

**Churchwide  
Easter  
Celebration**

**MARCH 23RD      SATURDAY 2 PM**

Easter Egg Hunt for Children and Adults, Crafts, Games, Snacks, and Devotion for All Ages!

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
GOLDSBORO**

Presents

*The Living Last Supper*

A Maundy Thursday Communion Service  
**Thursday | March 28, 2024 | 8:00 p.m.**

Come witness the reverence and beauty of Christ in this meaningful drama.

Childcare Available

**FPC MISSION TRIP  
CHIAPAS, MEXICO**

Join us for an informational meeting about this year's trip on **March 3rd in the Library** following our Sunday Worship Service.

**MISSION TRIP DATES: JUNE 22-28**

**DONATE  
BLOOD  
SAVE LIFE**

**Tuesday, April 16  
11:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m.**

First Presbyterian Church of  
Goldsboro