

**April 7, 2024**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**We Gather in God's Name**

**Chiming of the Trinity**

**Prelude** *Lift High the Cross*

Manz

**Welcome**

**We Worship Together**

**\*Call to Worship**

Dal Luke

Into our fears and through our locked doors.

**Come, Almighty God.**

When we think 'peace be with you,' means no change or disruption,

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Amidst our lives that confuse religious entertainment with Easter fulfillment,

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

For the sake of a community meant to be its best during crisis,

**Come Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**\*Hymn 826** *Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

**Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)**

When we stand at the baptismal font and confess our sins we are not doing so as lost, guilty and ambiguous human beings who are not sure of our standing before God. We do not come groveling, but we come confident as those who are no longer dead in our trespasses but who are already alive in Jesus Christ. Without God's grace, we would not even know we are sinners. So we confess together:

**Prayer of Confession**

**O Lord our God, we think our best should happen when we are in control. Forgive us for not expecting the risen Christ to show up when we are anxious, content to lock the doors of your house for fear of all that is outside. Forgive us for thinking that church mainly happens inside these walls and not into the world you so love and into which we are sent. Forgive us for looking for your power in all the conventional places but never in places of brokenness, crisis and defeat. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, repair what we are, and by the power of Christ's resurrection, raise us up to serve others for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

You are already forgiven, loved and whole. In Christ, you are a fully flourishing human being; go live like it. In the Spirit, you are not an isolated spiritual being, doing Christianity alone, but you are part of a community of faith; go build that. By the grace of God, every human being is seen, loved, and made whole; go practice that. Amen.

**Sharing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us now greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

**\*Holy Interruption** *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen, Amen.**

**Anthem** *Pass It On*

Kaiser/Hayes

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing. That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it; you spread his love to everyone; you want to pass it on. What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding; the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming. That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it; you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.*

**Children's Message**

Mary Louise Baker

**We Receive God's Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament Reading** Numbers 6:22-27

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 4:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

**Message**

Rev. Dr. Annette Brewer

**Affirmation of Faith** *(from The Book of Common Worship)*

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen**

**\*Hymn 829** *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

OLIVET

**Announcements**

**Pastoral Prayers & Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory** *Prelude in A-Flat Major, No. 26*

F. Chopin

**\*Doxology Hymn** *All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night* TALLIS' CANON  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Good and gracious God, help us to say thank you, to live with gratitude, to look for the best in each other, and to live charitably with all. May your resurrection never stop surprising us, disrupting us and transforming us, until Christ's kingdom comes. Amen.**

**We Go Out to Serve**

**\*Hymn 837** *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

SHOWALTER

**\*Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response** *He Lives*

Ackley

Chancel Choir

*He Lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.*

**\*Postlude** *Come, Thou Almighty King*

Whitworth

Please wait until the end of the benediction response by the choir before exiting.

\*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk

We welcome Rev. Dr. Annette Brewer to the pulpit this morning.

**The Church This Week (4/7/2024)**

Today	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	5:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	6:00 p.m.	Youth
Mon.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
Tues.	6:00 p.m.	Women's Community Bible Study
Wed.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
	9:00 a.m.	Women's Community Bible Study
	3:15 p.m.	Fun Program
	6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Thurs.	6:30 p.m.	Mission Outreach
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

**Prayer List as of April 7, 2024**

Gerry & Bobby Rogers  
 Ina Coggeshall  
 Gray & Bea Sloop  
 Bennie and Benny Lou Moore  
 Bobbie Jones  
 Dr. Sue Arledge and her husband, Bob  
 Shenell Malloy (Susan & Bill's daughter-in-law)  
 Edward Tinsley  
 Kathie Cook  
 Penny Angle  
 Barbara Dickson

Listed below are links to sign up to volunteer in the nursery, put flowers in the church, and monitor students at Pathfinders. Please prayerfully consider these opportunities. If you are interested, please just click on the proper link. If you need help in signing up, please contact Cathy Chapman.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545AF22AB9-nursery#/>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545AF22AB9-flowers1#/>

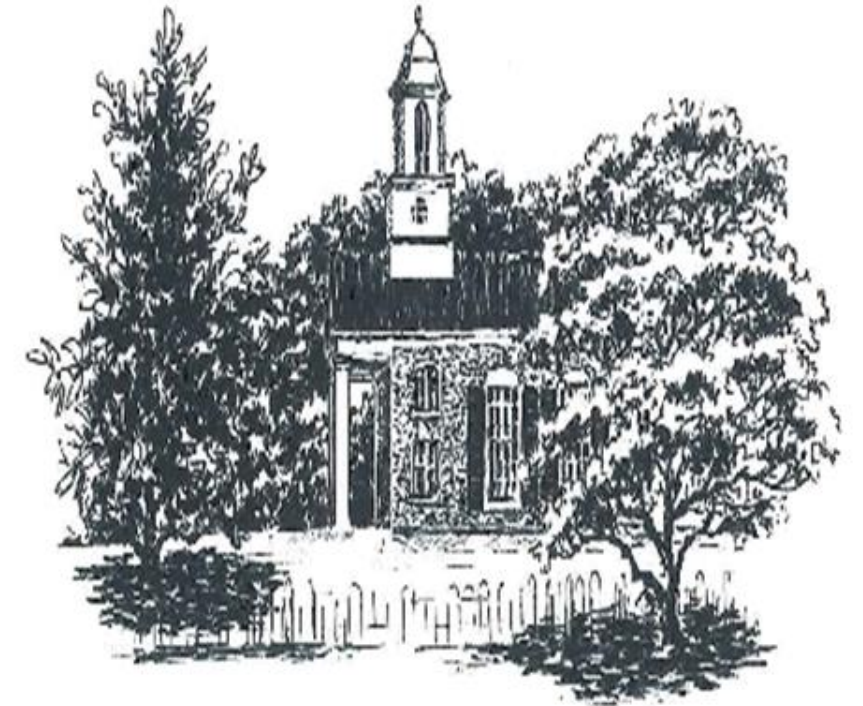
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545AF22AB9-45315196-pathfinders#/>

The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.

**Montreat Youth Announcement:**

To all the parents of youth from the 9th grade through recently graduated, the Montreat Commitment Form has been sent out to you! This includes the cost breakdown and information your teen needs for the trip. Please complete this form and return it to either Pastor Max or Elder Kelli Beck before the April 1st deadline. This will secure your child's spot in Montreat! Additional copies of the Montreat Commitment Form can be found in the Youth Newsletter box outside the Church Office. We are looking forward to Montreat this year!

We are excited to announce our 2024 Vacation Bible School! Dive below the surface and build a stronger faith from June 18-20th, 5:30-8 p.m.! ALL ages are welcome! Dinner 5:30p.m.; classes 6-8 p.m.! Our first VBS planning meeting will be on Sunday, April 14 at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship.



*Our Vision*

*Rooted by God's Grace,  
 Growing in the Spirit,  
 Reaching Out with Christ's Love*

**Session of First Presbyterian Church**

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Marietta Melton Burch	Kelli Beck	Mary Anderson
Cathy Chapman	Avery Dickson	Andrew McLeod
Dan Tillman, III	Mary Jane Evans	Kristen Miller
Charlene Tillman	Jean Page Watson	Richard Pierce

**The Church Staff**

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor	Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE
Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary	
Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton	Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO
Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper	Mrs. Sally Powell, MMO
Mrs. Mary Gullledge, Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery	

**Mission Partners**

Mr. Mark Hare/ Mrs. Jenny Bent, Costa Rica  
 Mrs. Ellen Smith, (mission co-worker) Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland

**Sunday, April 7, 2024**

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