



The PresbyRecord

A community beacon of faith, love and hope.

Volume LVIV, Issue 4

April, 2024

Mark's Message

As the season of Easter and spring are upon us, I'm certain many, if not all of you, are experiencing some cabin fever. While we have had a fair winter, it will be great to move back outside in the months to come, watching as creation comes back to life. We have the opportunity to celebrate the resurrection as we celebrate the season of newness. The coming together of Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection seems to make complete sense in the springtime—a perfect way to see life spring forth from death.

I am reminded of the Hebrew people on their exodus from Egypt being given a newness of life, a new beginning, and a fresh perspective on life. The age and experience of death was behind them, and they heard the Lord say to them, "You will be my people and I will be your God¹" and not only God's people but, God's people with a land². And despite all their adversity, as even their faith was challenged, God kept the promise and provided for their every need. Every day brought with it a new beginning, a brand new source of life, known as manna. They were never forced to eat leftovers and there was always enough food for everyone. The bread from heaven was a sign of their perpetual spring and was symbolic of how God was with them as their God every new day of their lives.

The covenant never left them, and the Apostle Paul declares how God's covenant with them never subsides³, yet looking at their history as a people, less than 1% of recorded literature acknowledges times when they were not a persecuted people.

Later this month, our Jewish sisters and brothers will celebrate Passover and remember being set free from tyranny, slavery, and oppression under the Egyptians. They will celebrate their plight through the wilderness, traveling and wandering for a generation,

and then finally being able to inherit their promised land. Many of us are familiar with this story, and thankfully we know God's promises never fail.

While the modern state of Israel is not the same as the biblical kingdom of Israel, we also know it exists today in large part because of the plight of the Jewish Diaspora that began shortly after the fall of the Temple period in the mid first century. The Jewish people were spread throughout the then Roman Empire in an attempt to thwart their ethnicity and their faith. The 21st century has been almost as unkind to the Jewish people as the multitude of centuries in our checkered past. The terrible plan of Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Iranian government to indoctrinate people to chant "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" is an attempt to wipe the Jewish people from their ancestral homeland, which ironically is a modern state where Muslims, Christians, Druze, Bedouins, and Jews live in harmony. It is a state that provides for the wellbeing of its citizens while also attempting to be a good neighbor to hostile countries that surround it. I often wonder why it is always Israel and not Jordan or Egypt who is the recipient of disdain from the UN and other countries, but then I am reminded that antisemitism is alive and well now as it has been for millennia.

It is my prayer that once again a newness of life can be met between people of a longstanding covenant with God—both Samaritan and Israeli. I pray for the peace of Israel and Palestine and encourage you to do the same. Let us constantly seek the manna from heaven that leads us all to peaceful relationships and recognize the gift we have in being led and called to love our neighbors as ourselves. Hopefully in due time, our denomination can reconcile as well.

¹ Exodus 6:7

² Genesis 12:1-7, 15:18-21, 26:3, 28:13; Exodus 23:31; Numbers

34:1-12; Deuteronomy 1:8 (and many, many more)

³ Romans 11:25ff



Game Night

Friday, April 5th

6:00 PM

Everyone is invited--Games for all ages.

Board games and card games for all ages. There will be snacks and prizes. Bring games and a snack to share if you like.

BIRTHDAYS

April

- 4 – Matthew Duvall
- 6 – Elly Denzie
- 7 – Paige Ennis
- 11 – Jon Dunlap
- 12 – Sonia Dettweiler
- 14 – Patricia Mullins
- 17 – Tori Capehart, Lew Baxter
- 18 – Jarrell Mullins, Abby Cox
- 19 – Bob Sutphin
- 20 – Tony Allevato
- 23 - Michael Merguc (young Michael)
- 28 – Carolyn Reed
- 30 – Gabe Mullins, Wendy Harvey

Happy Anniversary

Jon and Melinda Cox April 7, 1990

Our Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Gloria Williams who passed away suddenly on March 25th.

Prayer Concerns

Care Facilities:

Ann McCormick, Apt. 213, English Meadows,
5 Bexley Dr, Scott Depot, WV 25560
Sadie Ashworth, 5 Rolling Meadows Dr.,
Room 118, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Prayer Concerns – Congregation Members:

Mark Curtis	Debi Speidel
Mike Clark	Sara Kell
Eleanor Reeves	Laurie Turley

Prayer Concerns - Family and Friends

Ashley Nestman, Lymphoma (Connie Ivey)
Kathi Curtis' mother, Shirley Ware
Dr. Cynthia Rigby, Parkinson's (Kathryn Maddy)
William Wallace (Traletta Wallace's son) kidney
Roger Schomburg (Kathryn Maddy's uncle)
Victoria Reynolds hospitalized (Wanda Bowman)
Billy Wright (Laurie Turley) myeloma/Hemochromatosis
Joshua Higgins (Ron & Sharon Peterson's nephew) spinal surgery
Jeff Maddy (Kathryn Maddy's husband)
Michael Murphy (Mark Boyd's friend) cancer
Josh Reaser (Laurie Turley's cousin) cancer
Annie Miller (Veronica's niece) motorcycle accident
Eloise Waugh, Florida, recovering from a fall
Mary Jo Swartz (cancer treatment)

In the Military

Hunter Parsons, 1856 Colonial Arms Circle, Apt. 2A, Virginia Beach, VA. 23454. His wife Trinity will join him soon in Virginia. Hunter is the son of Debra Parsons and the late Rick Parsons.

Mickey Swartz, 90 Commons Dr., Building C, Unit 32B, Eugene OR 97401 United States. Mickey is the son of Mark and Mary Jo Swartz.

Captain Allie Curtis, U.S. Army is safely back on American soil after a deployment overseas. Thanks for all the prayers from friends and family! Allie is the daughter of Mark and Kathi Curtis.

Lieutenant Jack Wiles, U.S. Air Force. Jack is the son of John and Julie Wiles.

WE ARE RECYCLING CANS FOR THE ST. ALBANS HIGH SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB



We continue to collect recyclable cans for the Garden Club at St. Albans High School. Under the direction of David Harvey, the proceeds will go toward the purchase of seeds and plants for gardens behind the high school. The harvested produce is given to ProStart, a culinary arts program at the high school designed to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge to pursue a career in the food service industry. Contact David Harvey if you have questions at dwjeoh@msn.com
LOOK FOR THE RECYCLING CONTAINER MARKED FOR CANS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

Memorials

Given in Memory of Millie Grogg White
designated for Building Fund by:

Mark & Ann Hamilton
George Washinton Middle School
Mary Marchun
Sara Dalton Bible Class c/o Berea Baptist Church
Linda McCallister
Michael & Donna Merguc
John & Wanda Skidmore
Lois Henderson
Rex & Cora Perrine
John & Jackie Jones
Martha & William William Deel
Carla Tandy
Lynda & Samuel Strickland
James Woodall
Carolyn Zaborksy
Sara Kell
Norma Jean & Robert Price
Debra Singleton
Mary Marchun
David & Stephanie Sweeney
J Lynn McGinnis
Marion Moir
Janis & Bruce Nicholson

Worship Committee

Dave Harvey, Chair

Liturgists

April 7 **Kathleen Jordan**
April 14 **Buck Ivey**
April 21 **Valerie Wade**
April 28 **Dave Harvey**

Communion Set-up and Servers

April 7 **Laurie Turley**, Dave Harvey, Buck
May 5 **Dave Harvey**, Buck, Kristi Sutphin
June 2 **Buck**, Kristi Sutphin, Jack Rogers
July 7 **Kristi**, Jack, Kathleen Jordan
August 4 **Jack**, Kathleen, Adam Greathouse

Those whose names are **in red** are asked to set up.

Wednesday Nights Live
has concluded for the fall and winter
sessions. We look forward to returning in
September with more delicious meals,
Bible Study, and activities for everyone.

Notes from Session

March 10, 2024

- Matthew Lanhan was received into membership of First Presbyterian Church by reaffirmation.
- Approved the PW Birthday Offering and a lunch to celebrate.
- Received the February financial report from our treasurer.
- Approved a wedding shower for Cassie Denison for September 13.
- Reviewed the 2023 Statistical Report.
- Approved Vacation Bible School material “Christmas in Summer”.
- Approved WVMAW group staying in our facility the week of June 10-22.
- Approved a meeting of the 1971 St. Albans High graduating class.
- Set a Session Retreat/New Officer Training for Saturday, April 13 at the church.
- Next stated meeting April 13.
- Meeting adjourned and closed with prayer by Moderator Boyd.

Evangelism/Congregational Care

Valerie Wade, Chair

Blessing Bags – We need socks!

We thank everyone for the donations to the Blessing Bags. All items are still needed for the bags but one item is of a serious nature – **SOCKS!** Because of the high need for this item, Session has approved a Sock Drive for the next few months. Please place the socks in the designated basket in the fellowship hall.



LITTLES' STORY-TIME

meets on Fridays from 10:30 till 11:15am. It's 45 minutes but we accomplish a lot in that short period of time.

We read a book, make a craft, play, sing songs, play games, and eat a snack together after we have prayed. We enjoy being together so much.

Stop by and meet our participants on a Friday morning: Radford, Jack B. Amelia, Brooklyn, Alyssa, Wesley, Jack E, Lyla, Dean, Haru, Hinata, Lilly, Eloise, Julian, Holden, Paul, Walter, Georgia, Lyrik, Hiiro, Harper, Van, Lovelyn, Hazel, Kendalyn, LizzyKate, Aaron, Ben, Brielle, and Ellie. **We have 30 on our roles now. They**

range from 2 months to 5 years old. They come from St. Albans, Charleston, Hurricane, South Charleston, Cross Lanes, and Poca and travel in the rain, snow, and sunshine! Kaede and her family returned to Japan; we miss her very much. Kaede enjoyed Littles so much. She would sit close to the book reader to listen to the story and see the pictures.

Thank You to **Kathy Weed, Connie Ivey, Kathleen Jordan, Rev. Mark Boyd, Debbie Duvall, Andi Pease, Kirk King, Sara Kell, Donna Merguc, Regina Dayfield, Tara Malcomb, Jennifer Burgess, Kathryn Maddy, Jackie and John Jones, Raven Lanham, Linda Slappe and Abbie Burch** for giving of their time to be a part of this awesome program. Think about it and Pray and join the Littles' Team. If you do not wish to participate but have a book you would like us to read, drop it off at church or put it in the nursery with a note. Thank you to the ones who have already donated books. We also thank those who have made monetary donations.

We are outgrowing the Nursery! We have had 19 children with their guardians come on a Friday. It's a little crazy, but, it's a good crazy! We are thinking about how we can accommodate all the children safely and comfortably. The adults love the Nursery and the atmosphere and don't want to move to a different location.

We had an Easter Egg Hunt on the playground on our last Friday together before spring break and Easter holiday. Mike Merguc hid 265 eggs for us. The children were so excited and all the parents/grandparents enjoyed being together.

We wanted to share some of these special words from the children: "Mommy can I come back to Littles when I get bigger?" "I love Littles, I don't want to leave." From the parents, "You can feel God's love in this room." "You all do so much for the children." "We love everything." We are very thankful and blessed hearing those comments.

Follow us on Facebook and enjoy all the pictures that Andi so graciously takes for us.
Donna Merguc, Littles' Coordinator



THE PRESBY RECORD MISSION COMMITTEE

Jack Rogers, Chair

THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you for your support of the St. Albans Food Pantry and Christ's Kitchen. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps keep these ministries, which touch the lives of many people, going.
CK/FP Board of Directors

Thank you for your donations to One Great Hour of Sharing – received \$202.00

Thank you for your donations to Souper Bowel Sunday – received \$97

Kroger Community Awards

Through the Kroger Community Rewards Program, Kroger will donate to FPC 5% of all grocery/pharmacy purchases you make just by using your Kroger Plus Card. Please sign up for this FREE profitable program for FPC. You only have to open an account and register your Kroger Plus Card online at: krogercommunityrewards.com. OR You can simply telephone Kroger Community Rewards at 1-800-576-4377. They will assist you with registering your Kroger Plus Card. You will need to have handy either your Kroger Plus Card number or your alternate ID (your telephone number).



April 1 – May 19

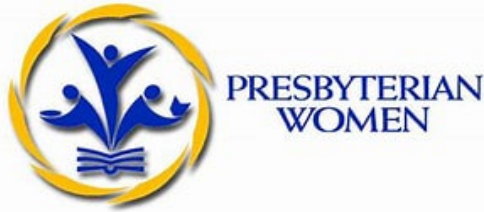
investing in our greatest resource

**Help youth begin life
with a solid
foundation of faith.**

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults. Watch future announcements for more information.



Anyone desiring to have articles, information, or announcements included in the May newsletter will need to submit that information by April 26. Thank you.



Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to:

- ✦ nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- ✦ support the mission of the church worldwide,
- ✦ work for justice and peace, and
- ✦ build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

To learn more, see

www.presbyterianwomen.org.

Horizon's 2023-2024 Bible Study

Sacred Encounters: the Power & Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 10 at Noon

This month's sacred encounter, **Lydia, Encounters Jesus in Worship**, shows us how the sacrament of Baptism connects us to God and our community of faith. We will discuss how Baptism is a sacred encounter in our church today, and how our participation in circle and other faith fellowships inform and strengthen our spiritual walk.

Join us for either or both circle gatherings. Wednesday is a brown bag lunch fellowship at noon, with Bible study from 12:35 to 1:30 pm. The Zoom on Tuesday opens at 6:45 pm for fellowship and Bible study begins at 7:00 pm. Here is the Zoom link:

<https://bridgevalley.zoom.us/j/81076798059>

Meeting ID: 810 7679 8059

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,81076798059# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,81076798059# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 810 7679 8059

Find your local

number: <https://bridgevalley.zoom.us/j/81076798059>

2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's 2024 Churchwide Gathering will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, August 8-11, 2024. The 2024 PW Gathering will be an exciting, faith-filled time to renew our connections within and across PW groups from across the country. Join us to be invigorated, equipped for your PW life, welcomed into community. The **registration deadline is April 15, 2024!** The registration fee is \$450 and rooms are available at the Marriott St. Louis Grand, across the street from the America's Center where the meetings and workshops are. Rooms are \$185 per night plus tax. Contact Kathryn at (304)539-2573 for more information.

Grace and peace, Kathryn Maddy
(304)539-2573

by hundreds of other PWs, and empowered to "Do everything in love."

Congregational Happenings

Laurie Turley, Chair



Friday, April 5 -- 6:00 pm

Everyone is invited---Games

for all ages. Board games and card games for all ages. There will be snacks

and prizes. Bring games and a snack to share if you like.

Refreshments Needed for Fellowship Time following Worship

If you would like to take a turn providing refreshments on a Sunday following a worship service, please sign up on the calendar in the kitchen. Thank you to all who have been bringing goodies. It is always a welcome surprise to come in the fellowship hall after worship and find a treat to share while visiting with one another.

Contact Laurie Turley at cheflauriet@aol.com

304-610-4076 call or text if you have questions.

**First Presbyterian Church
201 Kanawha Terrace
St. Albans, WV 25177**



Trustees

Class of 2024: John Jones
Class of 2025: Buck Ivey
Class of 2026: Mark Curtis

Church Staff

MinistersEvery Member of the Congregation
Pastor..... Rev. Mark Boyd
CustodianMike Merguc
Treasurer.....Buck Ivey
Tech Team.....Dave/Wendy Harvey, Betty King,
Michael Clark

First Presbyterian Church
201 Kanawha Terrace, St. Albans, West Virginia 25177
Phone: 304 727-2241
Email: fpcsa@firstpresbychurch.com
Web site: www.firstpresbychurch.com
Facebook: First Presbyterian
Church of St. Albans