

First Presbyterian Church Spring E-News



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A Note from the Pastor

Spring Blessings!

It is that time of year again, the hope of spring weather. Warm days and cool nights as we watch the world begin to unfold beauty before our eyes. Growing up in the country, I was well acquainted with the seasons. My family and I would watch as the buds poked through and leaves dared to make themselves known. Before you knew it, all was transformed and things looked different than those cold winter months.

Part of what I like about this noticing moment is that these cycles are essential to nature and were established by the creator. There is such beauty in all parts of the process: slow emergence, constant color, autumn release, and winter's rest. It is a well-known pattern for us and as we sit in this season of Eastertide - we know that this pattern matters to God. Christ modeled it for us and we feel it deep within us!

We trust that we can experience emergence and color and release and rest. Together we look around to see God's own cycles in our very being -

because all seasons are necessary for a healthy creation.

Right now, I am beginning to plant flowers and vegetables that I will personally nurture. It is my hope that they are able to thrive and that creation will be better because of it. That is the work we are all called to do - tend the soil in front of us and help God's love to blossom all around. May we be bold in the work and keep the faith!

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Alison



"The Gift of Seeds" from Sowing Seeds: Prophetic Action to Climate-Changed Lands

Seeds are about the past, the present, and future. A seed is the fruit of a past harvest; they are ready to be planted in the present; in the future, they will bear fruit. May the miracle of life within the seed break forth and yield a bountiful harvest. Lord God, bless the seed, and all who plant it.

A Note from the Clerk of Session

It is fulfilling, faith infusing and fun to be active in this church. The Highlanders are holding their monthly luncheon meetings again, a number of us recently enjoyed a field trip to the Maryland Theater, there are bright, creative bulletin boards in the hallways, organizations use our building and regularly we have a variety of opportunities for exploration of faith in Bible studies and retreats with guest speakers. AND, we have great worship! If you didn't attend through Lent, you missed meaningful sermons on "Tables and Grace". Rev. Peters led us through Lent with her series of thought-provoking reflections on a few of the many times reported in the Bible when Jesus shared a meal with those who some deemed to be unworthy of his company. Perhaps you weren't able to attend in person, but we hope we pass the peace to you via livestream each week at 11 am. God welcomes all.

In the area of "God at work in our lives", elder Josh Gilhart, co-chair of Faith Formation, has felt a call to explore ministry. With the enthusiastic support of the Session, he enrolled to participate in a process of "inquiry" through our Presbytery and took his first on-line class this semester from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa. Last year on his own initiative, Josh worked through many months of reading assignments and essay writing to become certified in Christian education. He is now endorsed as a Christian Education Associate. He often serves as liturgist and has assisted Rev. Peters with serving communion on several occasions. Our Session and church community will pray for, encourage and support him in his studies. Take a moment to ask him what he has learned this semester.

God has his hands in the work of Dr. Robert Gamble too. We look forward

to seeing him again as he will be visiting us on May 7th and will lead worship that day for Rev. Peters. She will be out of town attending the Dakota Presbytery meeting.

This is the month when we celebrate our earth and strive to recognize what we should be doing to balance our heavy hands that press down in all areas of his creation. Take time this month to walk your neighborhood, stream channel or public outdoor space. Pick up trash, reflect on your local watershed. Think upstream - consider the source of that water, then think downstream, what impact your use of that water has to those downstream. Carefully consider any use of fertilizer on your lawn or pesticide on your plants. Rain washes those poisons into the waterways. Reduce use of plastic bags. We have some members participating in the Let's Beautify Cumberland event in early May. Sign on to that activity for community engagement and fellowship and help to brighten our city undergoing reconstruction. On Saturday, April 22nd I encourage you to rejoice in the beauty of our earth and enjoy an outing with friends or family. <https://www.earthday.org/history/>

In the stars His handiwork I see, on the wind He speaks with majesty,
"He's Everything to Me" by Ralph Carmichael

Carolyn Mathews



Please note that the Church Office will be CLOSED on Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

Vacation Office Hours



Please note that Brittany will be on vacation from Tuesday, May 30th-Monday, June 5th. The church office will be open from 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM by office volunteers during Brittany's time away.

Nurture

Joys and Concern



APRIL

Nancy Hodges 14-Apr
Bob Kazary 14-Apr
Ann Kellermeyer 14-Apr
Mary Gallion 17-Apr
Brenda Luger 17-Apr
Dale Corley 22-Apr

MAY

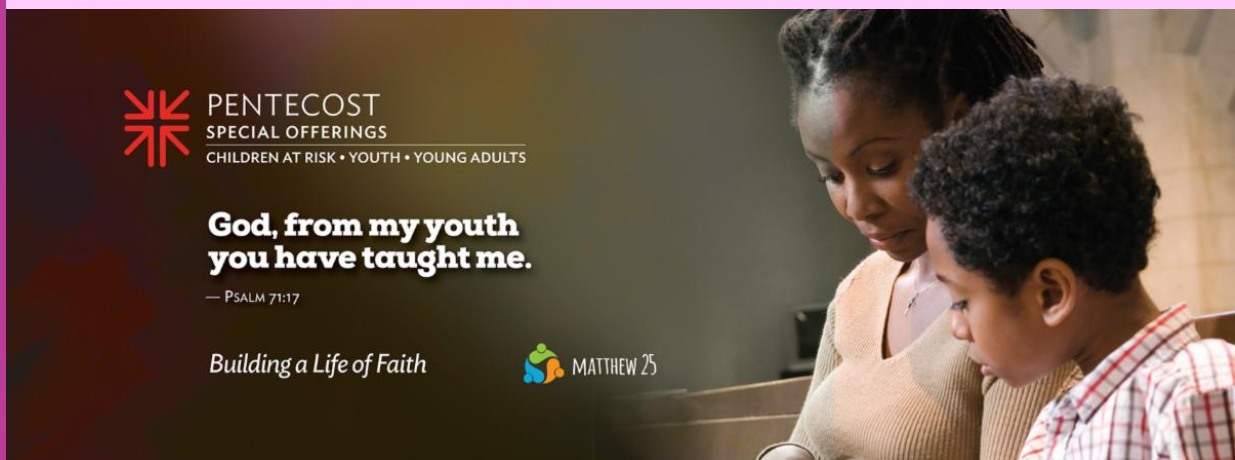
Cathy Levitas 5-May
Bill Kellermeyer 6-May
Paul Aber 7-May
Gary Hendrickson 7-May
Nancy Hall 8-May
Carolyn Weaver 8-May
Mike Levitas 10-May
Buck Belt 11-May
Marisa Aurigemma 19-May
Ronnie Barb 28-May
Bob Lange 28-May
Susan Mills 30-May

Sunday, May 14th



Opportunities to Serve

Pentecost Offering



On Sunday, May 28th our congregation will have the opportunity to donate to the Pentecost Offering.

Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$16 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. We believe we are called to do even more — to support and care for young people as they build a strong foundation of faith.

40% of the Pentecost Offering will be used to support a local youth based program.

25% goes to Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) experience. This will train and equip volunteers to engage in mission in the U.S. and around the world. It will reduce barriers to serve by providing assistance with student loan debt, medical insurance, and a simple living stipend. It will provide additional funding to ensure all young adults have the opportunity to participate.

25% supports ministries with youth, ages 12–18. This project offers a path and plan for graduating seniors to explore their next steps in faith,

community, and vocation.

10% supports the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national initiative, to better the lives of children by working to ensure equitable, accessible, quality public education so that all children, may grow into the fullness of life.

Please give generously to the Pentecost Special Offering.

Worship With Us

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

BEGINNING SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH

WORSHIP WILL START AT 10:00AM IN THE SANCTUARY



OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS on Sunday, June 4th. Worship will begin at 10:00 AM. Our summer schedule will remain until Sunday, September 3rd.

PENTECOST
Holy Spirit Come!

On Sunday, May 28th , we will celebrate Pentecost .

You are invited to wear **red**, **orange**, or **yellow**
to celebrate the birthday of the church.

Lenten/Easter Pictures



Shrove Tuesday



Easter Egg Blessing



Jesus Christ SuperStar



