

*The Network... a Publication of  
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*April 2021*

Message from our Pastor

Signs of hope and new life come in strange forms. Like an empty tomb. Or a vaccination syringe. As more and more of us get vaccinated, we are like the first crocus blossoms of spring—gradually emerging into the world once again, a bit tentative as to whether we can trust the warmth of the sun or whether we are in for another deep freeze.

The events of this past year have been traumatic for us individually and collectively. As we emerge back into some semblance of “normalcy,” we cannot expect to pick up life where it left off before the pandemic and to be unchanged by all that has transpired. The loss of life, the loss of economic well-being, the stress we’ve endured, the disruption to our plans and dreams, have all left their mark upon us. We move out of this pandemic as altered people.

The mid-week Bible class was recently discussing the topic of “spiritual resiliency.” The question before us was how we maintain a sense of hope and well-being even in the face of life’s pressures and traumas. And the discussion centered around the belief that we are connected to something greater than ourselves. Our life’s story is part of a larger narrative: the story of God’s steadfast love and grace. And knowledge of that can make us “resilient.”

The Resurrection is the celebration of God’s gift of spiritual resiliency. We have not been abandoned to the dark traumas of this world or to the dark elements within ourselves. At the Resurrection, the God of steadfast love and grace defeats that darkness and death. And thus we can face life’s hardships and our own imperfection and sin with resiliency. We will be changed, for sure. But we can also experience the gift of new life. For Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Shalom

Tracy



**MAUNDY  
THURSDAY**

**Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service  
April 1, 7:30 pm**

Join us for this service of readings,  
communion, and the extinguishing  
of candles.



**Easter Sunday, April 4**

**Space is limited**

**Reservations Mandatory**

**11 am with Communion**



**Reservations for worship services must be made by  
3:30 pm on Tuesday, March 30th**

## Worship Column

### **Thursday, April 1**

*Maundy Thursday*

Ex. 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14 and  
Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; John  
12:1-17; 31b-35

### **Friday, April 2**

*Good Friday*

Isa. 52:13-52:12 and Ps. 22;  
Heb. 10:16-25 or Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9;  
John 18:1-19:42

### **Sunday, April 4**

*Resurrection of the Lord/Easter*

Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 25:6-9 and  
Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor. 15:1-11 or  
Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or  
Mark 16:1-8

*Easter Evening:*

Isa. 25:6-9 and Ps. 114; 1 Cor. 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49



### **Sunday, April 11**

*2nd Sunday of Easter*

Acts 4:32-35 and Ps. 133; 1John 1:1-2:2;  
John 20:19-31

### **Sunday, April 18**

*3rd Sunday of Easter*

Acts 3:23-29 and Ps. 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

### **Sunday, April 25**

*4th Sunday of Easter*

Acts 4:5-12 and Ps. 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18



## What's Happening in April ....

April 1	Thursday	7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
April 4	Sunday	11:00 am	Easter Worship
April 5	Monday	<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
April 6	Tuesday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
April 8	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
April 11	Sunday	11:00 am 7:00 pm	Worship Service Zoom Deacons' Meeting
April 13	Tuesday	10:00 am 12:00 pm	Youth Support Team Meeting Food Pantry Open
April 14	Wednesday	1:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study
April 15	Thursday	12:00 pm 7:00 pm	Food Pantry Open 100th Anniversary Zoom Meeting
April 18	Sunday	11:00 am	Worship Service Youth Group Sub Sale @ UPC
April 20	Tuesday	12:00 pm 2;00 pm	Food Pantry Open Ministry to Community Meeting
April 21	Wednesday	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study Zoom Session
April 22	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
April 25	Sunday	11:00 am	Worship Service Youth Grp Sub Sale @ North Presbyterian
April 26	Monday	2:00 pm	Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity Methodist
April 27	Tuesday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
April 28	Wednesday	1:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study
April 29	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open



# April Birthday Wishes for:



- 4 Lee Ann Grace
- 5 Hazel Moodie
- 11 Linda Krempa
- 13 John Lopinski, Jr.
- 15 Desmond Chia
- 18 Priscilla Kim
- 21 John Novak
- 22 Henna Shirazi
- 23 Gladys Gifford
- 24 Meg Cheman
- 26 Olivia Smith
- 28 Jerilyn Hickey



## Youth Group Sub Sale and Fundraiser

Our combined youth group of North University will be holding our sub sale fundraiser to raise money for this summer's trip to the Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina. Subs are still \$5, but this year, we've added some new combo options as well as new COVID-safe for pick up or delivery! You can order a sub by clicking the following link: <https://forms.gle/qAdD84jkua8bNXEL9>

Please email Mack at [mackintosh716@gmail.com](mailto:mackintosh716@gmail.com) with any questions. Payment in cash or check is due at the time of pickup or delivery. Checks can be made out to North Presbyterian Church. Thank you as always for supporting our youth!



## CHURCH ENVELOPES

**Be sure to pick up your church envelopes now that we are returning to in-person worship. The envelopes are located on the table in the back of the sanctuary.**

## PRAYER CHAIN

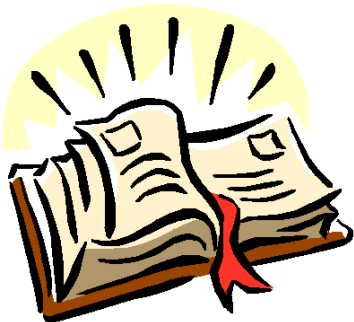
My aunt once told me “you can never have too many people praying for you.” To this day I still believe that is true. This past year has been very unpredictable and full of anxiety and uncertainty. To make matters worse we were unable to attend worship or other usual gatherings that binds us as Christians. As we make our way out of these troubling times I thought it would be reassuring to have a UPC prayer chain that can be sent around to find our strength through praying for each other. It will be an email that will make its rounds to whomever wants to share a prayer of concern or joy. I plan on starting it in April if you’re interested in participating. Amy Erickson’s email: amyhoechst@yahoo.com



Contact me if you wish to be added to the list and then I will contact you when I have a prayer request. Those with a prayer need can contact Peg in the office and ask for the prayer request to be put on prayer chain. Peg will let me know and I’ll send it out. The prayer chain will not replace the sharing of joys and concerns in worship.

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

-James 5:16



## BIBLE STUDY

For the weekly Bible studies during Easter season, Gladys Gifford will be sharing biblical and theological insights from this resource: [And the Leaves of the Tree are for the Healing of the Nations: Biblical and Theological Foundations for Eco-Justice](#), by Dr. Carol Johnston.

Our church is well-educated about caring for creation; this booklet helps us base our understanding in references from the whole Bible. Dr. Johnston shows how scripture declares that creation, i.e. *cosmos*, is integral to God's work of salvation and grace.

We will offer four sessions at 1:00 pm, via Zoom: April 14, April 21, April 28, May 5.

All are welcome!