

March  
2024



First  
Presbyterian  
Church of Alma



## A Note from Rev. Katrina

What are some Holy Week and Easter traditions you value? I grew up PCUSA but also have fond memories of going to midnight mass with some of my Catholic friends. When I served in Indiana, we always had a sunrise service at the Point, a spot on a bluff that could see three bends in the Ohio River. It was always freezing, but we did it because it was tradition, and the sunrise was gorgeous with pink and purple hues shining over the daffodil stems poking out of the ground. While we were in Indiana my family began a tradition of getting fast food breakfast between services.

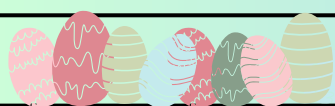
Now, it might be clear that there is ritual to going to midnight mass, and that there is ritual to going to sunrise service - but how does fast food breakfast celebrate the risen Christ? The short answer is, it doesn't. Despite this pastor being able to find Jesus in all things, this is something that isn't it - but, it is a family ritual. It's a treat for our family because we don't eat breakfast out any other day of the year. And maybe it isn't specific to the risen Christ, but it's a family ritual of togetherness that has worked for us.

The key, I believe, is that it works for us. For now. When it doesn't work anymore, my hope is we find a new ritual. This is the part that doesn't always shift in communities, whether they are churches, or institutions, or families: when we have a ritual or tradition that just doesn't fit one's time, energy, interests, or desire anymore. Sometimes rituals serve as a reminder. We have some religious rituals that help our bodies go through the motions even when our hearts and minds feel far away. Sometimes that ritual can welcome us back into faith practices. But sometimes those rituals become "that's how we always do it," as a motion and nothing more.

What are some rituals that are important to you? What has become a comforting routine? And what rituals no longer serve you?

As we inch toward Easter, may we pay attention to all our rituals, and how they connect us to one another and to God.

Peace,  
Rev. Katrina



# Session Notes



The next meeting will be a training and stated meeting on Saturday, March 16th at 1pm.

An installation of new elders and deacons will be on Sunday, March 10th during worship.

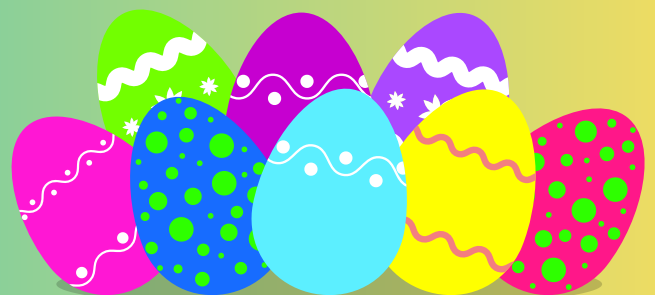
Rev. Marietta Macy will speak about the Israel/Palestine Network in Chapel Sunday, March 10 at 7pm.



*Happy Anniversary*

- 3-5 Barbara Marble
- 3-6 Virginia Blandford
- 3-17 George Orihel
- 3-18 Joyce Elsea
- 3-21 Roger Allman Sr.
- 3-28 Dave Knarr

3-28 George & Sherry Orihel



# MARCH SPECIAL OFFERING

The special offering for March is the One Great Hour of Sharing. OGHS is one of the four major special offerings of the PCUSA. It supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. For more information visit:

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

Please consider giving to this fund!





# DIVERSITY RESOURCES

The diversity library is expanding to digital resources!  
Look here in the newsletter each month for a new topic  
and resources.

March is Women's History month!  
Here are some resources about the ordination of women  
in the Presbyterian Church, USA!

First woman ordained in the PCUSA:

Rev. Margaret Towner in 1956

<https://www.history.pcusa.org/ordained-women-presbyterian-church>



First Black woman ordained in the PCUSA:

Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon - 1974

<https://pres-outlook.org/2018/03/katie-geneva-cannon-reflects-first-african-american-woman-ordained-pcusa/>  
<https://www.history.pcusa.org/katie-geneva-cannon-digital-collection>

First ordained female transgender minister to transition  
and remain ordained: Rev. Dr. Erin Swenson, 2021

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pioneering-transgender-minister-lets-her-light-shine/>





# March

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Presbytery Meeting
3	4 9:30-12pm Linus Ladies  6:30pm Pine River Arts	5 1:30pm Food Pantry  3pm Sabbath Group	6 5pm Lenten Meal 6:30pm Choir Practice	7 5:30 Community Café	8	9
10 Rev. Marietta Macy at Chapel 7pm	11 9:30-12pm Linus Ladies Rev. Marietta Macy at Chapel 7pm	12 1:30pm Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group 5:30pm Child Advocacy	13 5pm Lenten Meal 6:30pm Choir Practice	14 5:30 Community Café	15	16
17 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18 9:30-12pm Linus Ladies	19 1:30pm Food Pantry  3pm Sabbath Group	20 5pm Lenten Meal 6:30pm Choir Practice	21 5:30 Community Café	22 Rev. Katrina March 22-27	23 on vacation
24 Palm Sunday 31 Easter Sunrise and 10:30am	25 9:30-12pm Linus Ladies	26 1:30pm Food Pantry 3pm Sabbath Group	27 6:30pm Choir Practice	28 5:30 Community Café  7pm Maundy Thursday	29 Good Friday at AUMC 7pm	30