



First Presbyterian Church

UPDATE/3.24.22

MOUNT HOLLY NC

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday—April 10

The children of our church will cheer us on with the waving of palms!
The Handbell Choir will ring a joyful song!

Maundy Thursday—April 14, 6:00 pm

This year's Tenebrae service will be a little bit different, featuring creative readings based on the last days of Jesus' life as it is told in the gospel of Matthew. The Lord's Supper will be observed, and candles will be extinguished as the darkness deepens.

Easter Sunday, April 17—Outdoor Service at 10:00

Come and celebrate Jesus' resurrection in the beauty of creation as we celebrate this joyous day with **one outdoor service at 10:00**. We enjoyed it so much last year that Session decided to worship outside again this year. There will be special music along with the triumphant hymns of the day. We are delighted to welcome our choir back on this day as well!

You are encouraged to bring your own chair OR we will also have some available and set up for those who need one. **Please bring flowers** from your garden and place them on the flower cross! In the event of rain or cold the service will be moved indoors. The service will be livestreamed.

An **Easter Egg Hunt** for our FPC Kids will be held
Immediately following the service!

Holy Humor Sunday—April 24

The tradition continues with a light-hearted and joyful celebration of the resurrection! This is an "Old Easter Custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity. It is rooted in the musings of early Church theologians (Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. They called it 'risus paschalis' - the Easter laugh."
Remember to wear bright and silly attire!



Open doors, open hearts, a welcome for all just as you are!

Masks Optional

With careful thought and attention to Covid metrics, and after receiving input from the congregation, Session voted that beginning March 27 masks will be optional in worship. We do encourage spacing out—there are plenty of seats available in the front pews! The balcony is also an option.

There is one exception to this: that when we are singing, ALL are asked to put on a mask as singing expels much more breath. So please keep a mask in your pocket and put it on when we are praising God in song during the service.

Your patience throughout this experience has been greatly appreciated—thank you!

Church Work Day April 2



Hoping for sun and to see you on Saturday, April 2 at 9:00. It's always fun to join together in sprucing up the church grounds! There are projects for all ages! Join us!

Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for our FPC Kids immediately following the Easter morning worship Service. The kids are sure to have a great time and all of us will enjoy watching their delight! **The CE Committee would appreciate donations of candy** for the hunt. Small, individually wrapped pieces of candy are requested. Please bring to church by the last Lenten Lunch on April 3. Thank you!

PCUSA Disaster Assistance

If you wish to contribute to Ukraine refugee relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, send checks to:

Presbyterian Church (USA)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Prayer Concerns

We continue our prayers for those among us in need and for the world.

- Jewel N. recovering from surgery
- Patsy P. recovering from surgery
- Henry M. recovering at home
- General prayers for the Reynolds' grandson



April Birthdays

Alex Faith	4/01
Sandra Rhyne	4/02
Yates Springs	4/05
April Jessen	4/06
Warren Rhinehart	4/07
Henry Massey	4/14
Nancy Stowe	4/17
Ralph Webb	4/20
Brody Lineberger	4/25
Allison Lockridge	4/25

Lenten Lunch and Study

Our program continues for two more weeks on March 27 and April 3 right after worship. If you haven't already, do join us for lunch and the very engaging study by Amy-Jill Levine on "Short Stories by Jesus: the Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi."

Join the Choir!

As Covid numbers improve we are bringing back the choir! Previous members, new members, all are invited! The choir will sing on Easter Sunday, April 17. Rehearsals have begun but feel free to join in. The group meets in the sanctuary immediately following the Lenten Lunch and Bible Study.

Endowment Requests Due

A reminder that requests for grants and scholarships are due **by April 1**.

Budget Update

Total budget 2022	\$189,601.00
YTD receipts	\$37,391.00
YTD CRO	\$180.00
YTD 5 Cents a Meal	\$182.59

Thank you for your ever-faithful giving for our ministry at First Presbyterian!

Session Highlights

The Session met on Sunday, March 6, and made the following decisions:

Received the Kalinowski Family, Lisa, Joshua, and son Jacob, as members of our church family.

Approved a request from the Mt. Holly Athletic Association to use our parking lot for a yard sale, pending their providing a waiver that absolves the church from any liability connected to the yard sale.

Received a report from the Christian Education Committee about having intergenerational Vacation Bible School on June 12-14.

Approved a motion from the Mission and Outreach Committee that we send the \$500 gift given in memory of Rev. Rhoton, designated for charity, to the Presbyterian Board of Pensions Retired Ministers' Assistance Fund.

Approved a motion from the Mission and Outreach Committee to use \$100 of the committee's budgeted funds to contribute to the Presbyterian campaign for RIPmedicaldebt.org. This \$100 contribution will cover \$10,000 of individual hospital debt.

Approved a motion from the Buildings and Grounds Committee that we hire a company to repair and upgrade the sprinkler system in the Memorial Garden. The cost could be up to \$2000 and will come from the Building Fund account.



Holy Humor Sunday is 4-24!

Welcome!



VBS—Save the Dates!

VBS is back with a new intergenerational format! Save the dates:

Sunday, June 12 12:00—1:30 (lunch)

Monday, June 13 6:00-7:30 (dinner)

Tuesday, June 14 6:00-7:30 (dinner)

Canton Work Day

Our Presbytery of Western NC is planning a work trip (May 1-7) to assist in clean up from the flooding in Canton, NC. Let Janet know if you want to participate.

Or...there is the option to go and help just for the day as well. If anyone would like to join the DeWaters on Tuesday, May 3, let Janet know!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

One Great Hour of Sharing

The "Gracie the Fish" banks have gone home with our children to collect their coins for this special offering of the PC(USA). And on Easter Sunday we all will have the opportunity to offer our contributions to this fund for hunger, disaster relief and self-development of People. Your gift truly makes a difference in very many ways! Envelopes are located in the pews or you can note OGHS on your check.

Jeff Kaylor shared this correspondence from our sister church in Guatemala. While in-person visits have been paused due to Covid, we continue to support them with annual contributions, according to Presbytery guidelines, with scholarships and partnership funds. If you might be interested in visiting the congregation in the future, please let Janet know. And do keep our our sisters and brothers in Christ in prayer.

Hello dear brother Jeff, Sorry so sorry for my late very late reply, I've been busy at work and I almost haven't enough time for sitting on my chair for sending messages, I apologize seriously with you... and I know you will understand my situation.

Talking about COVID-19, almost all Madian church members have passed by the virus, including myself and my family, we are taking so much care about that. At this moment, we all are free from the virus and we are wearing face masks and getting desinfected at Church.

NEWS: I need to tell/inform you more things about our church, we have changed several thing on it, for example, we changed our name from IGLESIA PRESBITERIANA MADIAN POQOMAM to IGLESIA PRESBITERIANA MONTE DE LOS OLIVOS, also we changed our place, we moved on to another house a little close from the another one we left, the brothers and sisters are happy because we have our OWN place now, because we bought it, and the effort for that has been big, we need to provide to the old owner around Q.2,000 (around USD\$.260) every month and sometimes is hard for us to get that goal. I will attach some pics of our new Church from outside and inside.

PD: I need to make a mention that this new place is too small for us, but we are so happy.

Please say hello from us to all the brothers and sisters at The First Presbyterian Church of Mount Holly NC. thanks for your prayers we need them so much, we also are praying for you all....

John Balcárcel
Bassist for Monte de Los Olivos
Blessings to all

