



The Messenger

Reflecting God's Love - April 2024

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THE CONGREGATION

SESSION MEMBERS:
DENICE KEMP -
Clerk of Session
JEANETTE WEST -
Worship
DEBBY ALDRIDGE
Personnel/Finance
MIKE HART -
Education
EVELYN MATTHEWS -
Congregational Care
MIKE HART -
Benevolence/Outreach
CHRIS GENGLER
Building & Grounds

TREASURER:
PAT HART

ORGANIST:
JEANETTE WEST

CHOIR DIRECTOR:
SHAY VANWINKLE

**COMMUNICATIONS &
MESSENGER EDITOR**
#145 PETE STEBBINS

* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH - FOR THE
NEXT MONTH'S
PUBLICATION.

On the Journey with Pastor Mari Lyn

On Sunday mornings, at the end of the announcements, I say “Each Sunday, before or after worship, you are invited to come to the font and remember your baptism—remember who you are and to whom you belong.”



Baptism is one of two Sacraments we Presbyterians recognize and celebrate. The other is the Lord's Supper. A sacrament is a visible sign of an invisible grace from God. Sacraments employ ordinary elements of our daily lives to reveal God's oh-so-extraordinary love and grace. Water is that ordinary element in baptism. In our daily lives, we use water to clean our hands and bodies—to wash off the sweat, dirt, or grime that may cover us after a long day's work; to clean our hands of germs we pick up here, there, and everywhere. Water cleanses us. We Presbyterians believe our baptism reveals that through Christ, we are washed clean of anything that might dirty our relationship with God. In baptism, we are cleansed and made holy—that means set apart—for God's purposes.

In the gospels according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke, when Jesus rises from the waters of his baptism, God speaks from the heavens: “This is my beloved son in whom I am well-pleased” (Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3: 22). We Presbyterians believe that the waters of our baptism reveal God's claim on us as God's very own beloved children. The waters of baptism identify us—who we are and whose we are. We are baptized into God's family—a family of faith—the church. So, we Presbyterians baptize only when “the family” is present. We baptize in a worship service.



Continued Page 2

Calendar of Events

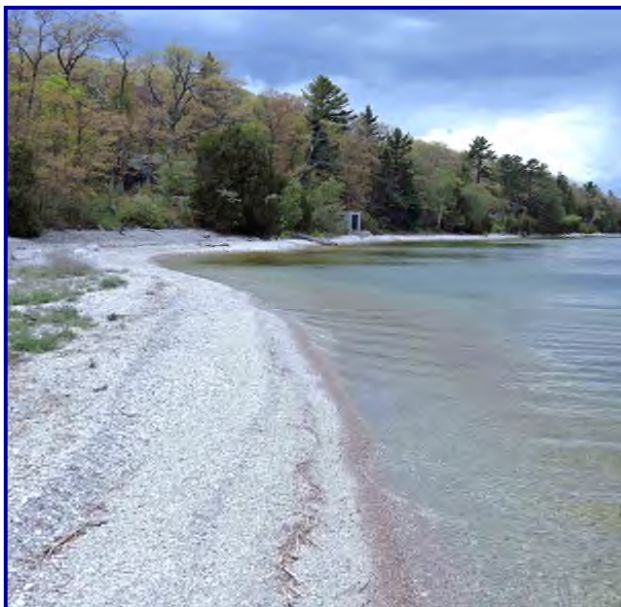
- Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Communion on First Sunday each mo.
- Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
- Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. @ 8 am.
- Chair Yoga 1pm Tues and 10:30am Thurs
- Choir Practice Wednesdays 3:30 to 4:30
- April 6 - Funeral for Bob Todd @ 11:00
- April 14 - Rev. Jesse Thornton - “Supply”
- April 18 - Women's Monthly Devotional
- April 21 - “Favorites” Sunday of Music
- April 21 - Session Meeting after Worship

April 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Bob Todd
7 Com	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 WD	19	20
21 Fav.	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

The Journey Continued

All life on earth—plant and animal life—needs water to survive. We Presbyterians believe that in the waters of our baptism, we die to an old way of life and are raised up to a new life in Jesus the Christ (2 Corinthians 5: 17). Baptism is cleansing, claiming, and life-giving.

We Presbyterians recognize the baptisms of other Christian denominations—baptisms that include the Trinitarian formula “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28: 19). We do not “re-baptize” when someone from another denomination wants to join our congregation because we believe baptism is a once and for all sacrament. But that does not keep us from remembering our baptism as often as we can. We can remember our baptism together in a service of “Reaffirmation of our Baptism.” And we can remember our baptism individually—in our sanctuary—by coming to the font, dipping our hand in it, and stirring the water. At the font, we remember God’s claim on our lives; we give thanks



for God’s forgiveness; and we joyfully step once again into the new life in which Christ calls us through his resurrection.

We can also remember our baptisms outside the church building, away from the sanctuary where we worship each week. We can remember our baptism every time we wash our hands or take a shower—giving thanks for God’s cleansing. We can remember our baptism every time it rains—giving thanks for the new life into which God calls us. We can remember our baptism whenever we walk along a creek, sit on the beach, or swim in a lake—giving thanks that God’s love and grace claims us as God’s very own beloved children.

Remember your baptism. Remember who you are and to whom you belong.

Grace and Peace, *MariLyn*

About Our Members (and Prayer Requests)

As **Bob Todd**’s family prepares for his memorial service on April 6th we pray for them. May they have strength and peace during this time. Specifically we pray for Gidget, her daughter Jeanine, and her sons Brian and Sean as they lovingly complete these final preparations.

Laquita Arner asks for prayers so that she will soon start her infusion medication for her eyes. She is on the waiting list.

Joan and Chine Ray ask for continued prayers for her brother **Bob** in his battle with lung cancer. Pray for strength. Her sister **Jean** is continuing her treatment for cancer. Pray for a cure for both of her siblings.

Priscilla Pinkston, Bill and Shirley’s daughter-in-law, will undergo an atrial fibrillation procedure in 3 weeks. Pray for success of the procedure and peace as she waits.

Linda Lloyd will have an angiogram on April 4th. Pray that all goes well and that Holy Spirit provides comfort and peace.

Jeanette West asks for healing as the medical staff monitors her irregular heartbeat and that they will find a good treatment for her condition.

Shay and Rip Van Winkle ask for prayers for their

granddaughter, Sydney, as she awaits a pediatric in utero CT scan for Liam James, their great grandson, on April 23rd. There are concerns about his development.

Eddy Castor- Ralph Castor’s brother has returned to his home in San Antonio from MD Anderson. He is currently in the hospital in San Antonio and will continue with his medical care there. Ralph asks for healing prayers for his brother and strength for his sister-in-law as his caregiver.

Missie Lanham still comes to Salado a couple of Saturdays a month. If you would like to visit with her here, please call her daughter, Claire, at 254-931-0596 to schedule the visit.

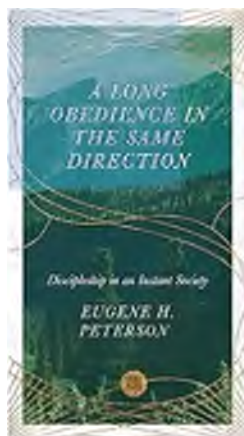


April Birthday

Bobbie Dickerson 9

Sunday School Update

On Sunday, April 7th, we will begin an 8-week study of Psalms 120-134, the Songs of Ascent, a collection of songs sung by pilgrims as they went up to Jerusalem for the great festivals. Eugene Peterson, author of *The Messenger*, has written a wonderful book about discipleship, based on these Psalms. The book, entitled [A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society](#) will take us through the remainder of this class year.



Please join us for coffee, cookies, and fellowship at 9:00 every Sunday through May 26.

Church Finances

March offerings were \$ 7,750.

March expenses were \$ 6,903.

As of March 31, One Great Hour of Sharing donations totaled \$2241 but a few more checks are expected before it is sent in mid-April.

Women's Devotional

The Women's Devotional will be held on Thursday, April 18th, in the Sunday School room.

We have studied blessings at a few of our previous classes so Pat Hart will lead us in fun and creative ways to write blessings for others. Please join us after chair yoga, at 11:30 if you would like to bring your lunch, or from 12:00 to 1:00 for just the devotional. All are welcome!

Sign-Up

The sign-up sheets are in the foyer for [flowers](#), [greeters](#), and [liturgists](#) between now and the end of the year.



♪♪ Not Just Musical Notes ♪♪

On Sunday, April 21, our choir will be leading the worship service with "Favorites" being the theme. Included will be favorite hymns, Bible verses and scripture passages suggested not only by choir members, but also from our congregation. Please share any favorite hymns or scriptures with a member of the Worship Committee - Bill & Shirley Pinkston, John Booher, Betty Gengler, Nancy Healey, Nancy Norris, Pat Rehm, or Jeanette West, chairman - by April 10.

Providing your favorite hymns by April 10, will allow time to check them against our subscription to the CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International) website to guarantee permission for use in our worship. Should we receive more hymns than can be used in this service, those may be available to be incorporated in other worship opportunities based on our licensing criteria.

In selecting favorite hymns and scriptures, please include information on why they are favorites and what their special meaning is for you. What a personalized worship service that will be. Thank you for providing this information as we continue to grow as our church family.

A big THANK YOU to our choir members for reviewing and learning the Lenten hymns sung from our Presbyterian Hymnal and "Sing the Faith" supplemental hymnal. Our purpose in choir practice is to familiarize ourselves with the music sung as a congregation as we worship together with prayer, scripture, and music. Instead of having a "Lead Singer" as in a singing group, our church is blessed to have an entire LEAD CHOIR, as together we "Make a joyful noise to Lord," Psalm 100:1.

Sharing in Christ's Service, Jeanette West

Planting Flowers



Betty and Chris Gengler are planting flowers after clearing a bed.



This bed is in front of church by the Pastor's Window.

THANKS!



Favorite Verses or Hymns

In the coming months we will solicit other members to provide stories around their favorite Bible Verses or Hymns. We hope this is a restart in a series of stories from our congregation. (This was included in the Messenger some 10 years ago.)

Favorite Bible Verse – Jerry Schleicher

When asked, what was my favorite Bible verse, I thought of several from my youth in Sunday school. Perhaps the most memorable was John 3:16 for it's both profound and gives a reason in one sentence. (I've always been a "why" person).

It expresses the reason: God so loved us (that he gave his one and only son) so that we may have eternal life (and live with Him). It's a free gift; we can't earn it! All we have to do is believe in Him!



John 3:16 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only son, that whosoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have eternal life.

A RISEN SAVIOR

We just celebrated Palm Sunday. Maundy Thursday quickly followed on its heels, then Good Friday, and at last, Easter Sunday.

"Jesus is Risen!"

"He is risen indeed!"

I love walking into church on Easter Sunday and hearing those words.

One of my favorite hymns to sing at Easter goes like this: "Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus, my Lord. Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes. He arose a victor from the dark domain, where he lives forever o'er his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"

It fills my heart with joy and makes me want to shout! "Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed!"

"Happy Easter", from a Merry Heart.

Linda Lloyd



We read from the *Gospel according to Mark* and reflected on the latter part of Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. We began with events that occurred on Wednesday of Holy Week—these are found in chapter 14 of Mark's gospel—and we continued through chapter 15 whose narrative ends with Friday of Holy Week. Some of this Holy Week narrative is set around table fellowship. We read those scriptures in the fellowship hall. There we celebrated the Sacrament of Communion as we read the scripture about Jesus sharing his last supper with his disciples.

Then, we moved from the fellowship hall to the sanctuary to read and reflect on the more somber and darker events of the narrative - Jesus praying in Gethsemane; Jesus arrested, tried, and crucified. Theologically and liturgically, the sanctuary was a more appropriate place for those readings.



Maundy Thursday Service - March 28

