



Words of Faith

Faith United Presbyterian Church

Volume VIII, Issue 4

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends of FUPC,



Easter Sunday this year is on the first of April and the Easter season lasts for fifty

days concluding on Sunday, May 20, with the celebration of Pentecost, or what people sometimes refer to as the "birthday of the Church." Ordinarily, when we hear the word Easter, most of us think of Easter Sunday, a day of celebration in the church with its lavish worship service complete with special music and the sanctuary adorned with Easter Lilies. But we might also want to think about Easter as a season.

According to Laurence Stookey in his book, *Calendar, Christ's Time for the Church*, Pastors and church leaders need to impress upon Christians the concept of Easter as a fifty-day season. He writes, "For the explosive force of the resurrection of the Lord is too vast to be contained within a celebration of one day." I agree. During the fifty days of Easter, I have a plethora of themes to preach from. One of the themes you can be sure I will address is the theme of the new life offered to us by what God has done through the resurrection of Jesus.

As an illustration of new life, I sometimes share the story of one of the first plants Terry and I planted when we purchased a home in Charlotte North Carolina. Terry planted a Clematis vine. I had no idea what a Clematis vine was, but I trusted that Terry knew what she was doing, and she did. The vine produced a beautiful white flower in the spring that continued to bloom all summer long. We purchased a trellis for the vine to climb and like clockwork, the vine faithfully climbed the iron structure every spring. In the fall of the year Terry would cut the vine back to the ground. Nothing could possibly look as desolate and lifeless as that stubble of a vine that became dormant during the winter months. But once the weather turned warm, like a miracle, new life would appear out of that stubble and began its annual ascent upwards.

Every Sunday our congregation reaffirms our faith by reciting either the Apostles' Creed or another affirmation of faith. In the Apostles' Creed, the ancient words declare that "we believe in the resurrection of the body."

Rev. Dr. Jim Johns

It is a statement of faith that we believe that Jesus died, was buried, and that God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day. And because Jesus died and was raised from the dead, we believe that God will resurrect our bodies as well. The resurrection of the body is central to our faith as Christians. The apostle Paul once wrote, "For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." (1 Cor. 17:16-17) But scripture and the testimony of the Apostles assures us that Jesus was raised from the dead and that Jesus came into the world so that the world might be saved through him. In this is our ultimate hope for the future.

We are people of Easter faith. We believe that in God all things are possible. If God can bring life out of a withered, dried up Clematis vine, God can bring life to our dead bodies as well. That is our Easter faith and the good news of God's saving grace in Jesus Christ.

Shalom,

Pastor Jim

James@FaithUnited-pc.com

Inside this issue

- From the Pastor's desk
- Presbyterian Women
- FUPC in the community
- ...and more!

Next newsletter is

May 2018.

Deadline for articles, Friday, 4/20/18.

Contact church office or Brenda Swindle via email to submit articles.

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Presbyterian Women

FUPC Presbyterian Women Bible studies/ Circles meet monthly. Feel free to contact Mary Marxer if you need more information or contact a circle leader. The 2017-2018 Bible study is *Cloud of Witness*, books are available for purchase at \$11 each.



Tuesday Morning Circle-2nd Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Next meeting, 4/10. Circle moderator, Linnie Hinkle.

Thursday Morning Circle-2nd Thursday, *NEW TIME*, 10 am at the church, Next meeting, 4/12. Co-Moderators, Patsy Craig and Sharon Meurer.

Mary Marxer

Tuesday Evening Circle-3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm in members homes. Next meeting, 4/17, Circle moderator, Irene Simpson.

The Starboard Stitchers no longer meet on a monthly basis. You have the opportunity to help with the animal project. They have placed patterns and items needed for finishing the animals in the credenza in the front of the Adult Sunday School room (Double Room #4). They encourage you to help by sewing or stuffing the items as they are much appreciated by the nurses and children. Return finished animals to bottom of credenza and they'll be sure to get them down to the clinic. Lois Duell or Lorna Acker can help if you have any questions.

Outreach & Evangelism



Monthly Pancake Community Breakfast will be April 14 from 8-10am. Join us as we meet our neighbors and make new friends. Let's fill the parking lot in April with FUPC support for the breakfast. This could draw the community in!

The background is a photograph of a wooden cross standing against a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with bright light breaking through from behind the cross, creating a silhouette effect and illuminating the edges of the clouds. The cross is a simple, dark wooden structure.

7 Sundays of Easter
4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/22, 4/29
5/6, 5/13

Day of Pentecost
Sunday, 5/20

Sunday worship @11 a.m.
Sunday School
9:30 a.m. (Adults)
11:00 a.m. (Children)

Happy Birthday!

April 9

* Dixie Howell

April 10

* Helen Gereaux

* Doug Sparks

April 11

* Brenda Burkham

April 13

* Scarlett Silva

April 19

* Richard Davenport

April 21

* Lauren Hinely

April 27

* Dan Gereaux



Prayer Concerns



Rehab/At Home:

- ♥ Bobbie Jones
- ♥ Margaret Jones
- ♥ Anne Mobley
- ♥ Wanda Mosher
- ♥ Freddie Simmons

Prayers for:

- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Elizabeth Hendricks
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Ray Kirchmeyer
(David's brother)
- ♥ Sugie Maxfield
- ♥ Cleo Sherrard
- ♥ Glen Sparks
- ♥ Alan Swope
- ♥ Dennis Van Deventer
- ♥ Margaret Plunkett



Directory Updates

Please remember to notify the church office if your information changes.

Adult Sunday School

The **Searchers** class continues to meet at 9:30 in the Library/Resource Room. Led by Alison Meier, the class is currently using the PC(USA) curriculum for 2018: *Feasting on the Word*.

The **Weekly Bible Study**, led by Rich Lewis will continue their study of Matthew through late April. Meets in Double Classroom #4 at 9:30.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 Communion Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus	2 Church Offices Closed for Easter Holiday 7:30 GA-Room #2	3 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	4 6 pm PNC #4 7 pm FUPC Choir	5 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	6 9:00 LTCDS #1	7 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
8 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus 12:30 FUPC Session #4	9 7:30 GA-Room #2	10 10:30 PW Circle #4 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	11 6 pm PNC #4 7 pm FUPC Choir	12 10:00 PW Circle #2 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	13 9:00 LTCDS #1	14 8:00 FUPC Breakfast 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
Complete calendar of events may be found on the website—www.FaithUnited-pc.com						
15 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus 2:30 RYLA-Rooms #2 & #4	16 7:30 GA-Room #2	17 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1 7:00 PW Circle	18 6 pm PNC #4 7 pm FUPC Choir	19 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	20 9:00 LTCDS #1	21 11:00 GA-Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1
22 9:00 FUPC Prayer Time 9:30 FUPC Sunday School 10:30 Coffee/Fellowship 11:00 Worship 11:00 Good Shepherd & Following Jesus	23 7:30 GA-Room #2	24 7:00 GA-Rm #2 7:00 OA-Fellowship #1	25 6 pm PNC #4 7 pm FUPC Choir	26 7:00 GA-Fellowship #1	27 9:00 LTCDS #1	28 11:00 GA Double Rm #4 11:00 OA-Fellowship #1



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