

APRIL 2024

THE NEWSLETTER

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Brazoria, Texas
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www.fpcbrazoria.org; First Presbyterian of Brazoria, TX - Facebook



Happy Easter!

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. – Luke 24:5

Okay, some of you already knew I was crazy, and now the rest of you are certain that I am too. But it is the season of Easter. One day out of the year would hardly seem sufficient to celebrate this great mystery of our faith. The Easter season begins on Easter Sunday (March 31 this year) and lasts for 49 days, ending the Saturday before Pentecost (May 18 this year).

Of course, Easter really isn't just a *season* either. In the fullest sense, Easter is a new way of life — in which we are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:11), called to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). Every year, for 49 days, the church celebrates and rehearses this new way of life in the Season of Easter. Hopefully it becomes a habit, and we live this new way of life all year long.

An excerpt from the [Companion to the Book of Common Worship](#) (Geneva Press, 2003, 117):

“For seven weeks, a week of Sundays, we acclaim the resurrection of Christ by the power of God. The period of seven weeks of jubilation can be traced back to its Jewish roots of the fifty days celebrated from the day after Passover to Shavuot (Feast of Weeks, Exodus 23:16). For Jews, the Feast of Weeks closed the season of harvest, which had been started by the Feast of Unleavened Bread. In a similar manner, early Christians observed a fifty-day period of celebration from Easter to the Day of Pentecost. To underscore the uninterrupted rejoicing of these fifty days, fasting and kneeling in prayer were forbidden at least as early as the end of the second century. On the *pentecoste* (“fiftieth”) day, not only was the fifty-day period concluded, but a festival with its own proper content was celebrated. The Jews observed a feast of covenant renewal and eventually commemorated the giving of the Law. Christians celebrated the gift of the Spirit as preparing the way for the day of the Lord. What Moses and the Law did for the Jewish community, the Holy Spirit now does for the community of Christ.”

Love, Tracy 979-267-3761



THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to everyone who gives to the work of this church!! Thank you to those who bring food for the Food Pantry and the Blessings Box!! Thank you for those who work in the garden! Thank you for those who give for special offerings and for the Samaritan Christmas Boxes! Thank you for those who bring friends and family to church with you!!!

PRAYER list



April Birthdays

- 4/6 Rev. Tracy Williams
- 4/7 Michael Tinnon
- 4/10 Matthew Buchanan
- 4/16 Wesley Clarke
- 4/16 Madeleine Clarke
- 4/17 Chase Richburg
- 4/20 DeAnna Reistino
- 4/25 Robin Harrington
- 4/28 Taylor Love

What we prayed for March:

Prayer Focus:

Keep in Prayer: Rhonda Smith, Eileen Overbeck, Lori Comley, Kelly Gragert, Barbara Patterson, Blake Herron, Glenn Vollbaum, Ken Gragert, Ronnie Gragert, Kade Gragert, Tommy Carter, Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh, Vera Bang, Celia Selman, Cindy Massingill, Earl and Nelda Gragert, David Marcum, Sandra Clarke, Jack Taylor, Tarver Snedecor, Susan Yates, Terrell Lanier, Larry Cole, Jamie LeBouef, Donna Schroeder, Diana Crocker, Peggy Badders, Cole Buchanan, Debbie Floyd, Matthew Stephenson, Ricky Morgan and family, McKenna Buchanan, Debbie Sala and family, Pat Whitehead, Marilyn Shockley, Anette Robertson, Edwina Clingman, Wynelle Vollbaum, Nancy Oertli, Holly Chrysler, Barbara Ferrell, John Jones and family, Barbara Sullivan.

Comfort and Hope: Family and friends of Ruby Jordan (at her passing). Family and friends of Roseanne Torres (at her passing). Family and friends of Donna Pickle (at her passing). Family and friends of Alan Liddel (at his passing). Family and friends of Alice Ramby (at her passing). Families and people affected by the Key Bridge tragedy in Baltimore, MD. Princess of Wales and family. Victims of the terrorist attack in Moscow, Russia. Families affected by violence. Families grieving the loss of a child drowning. Cattle Ranchers in the Texas Panhandle and everyone affected by the wildfires in Texas and Oklahoma. Those affected by hail in Needville, TX, and the storm damage in Angleton, TX. Peace of Christ in our country and the world.

Other Prayers: Rhonda Smith and her brother and family, D.J. LeBouef, Tracy, Bonnie and family, Melanie, White family, Joyce, safety for students and their families during Spring Break, lonely, elderly, homeless, hungry, city workers, elected leaders of our government, military and our veterans, First Responders, EMT, firefighters, police officers and their families, our church and communities of faith.

Sharing the Joy: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 118:1

How can we pray for you today? If you have a prayer request, please call the church office, Rev. Tracy Williams, Ginny Raska or Linda Matheson.



April Anniversaries

- 4/8 Michael & Sarah Wilson
- 4/12 Earl & Nelda Gragert
- 4/17 Jud & Madeline McNeill
- 4/25 Ricardo & Jessica Herrera



SUNDAY SCHOOL

You are invited to study God's word on Sunday, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Everyone is welcome (all ages). A light breakfast is provided. No Sunday School classes will be held on Easter Sunday.



BIBLE STUDY

Our Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays after Prayer Group will conclude our Lenten Bible Study on the Psalms on April 2nd. Our Bible Study on the Book of Revelations will resume on April 9th and continue throughout the month. You are invited to join us on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.

CHURCH DINNER

The dinner for April 21st will be a "springtime" potluck. I can hardly wait to see what delicious recipes you come up with this time! Don't forget to bring your recipe and let me know, so I can make a tag. Thank you to everyone who provided food for all the March events: memorial, traveling dinner, and Easter breakfast. I really appreciate your support and yummy dishes.

Robin Harrington
979-482-3750

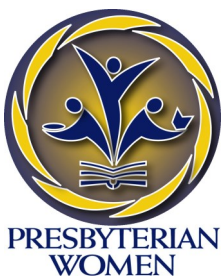


The Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start - a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with *the church of the past*, continuing to inspire *the church of today*, and pointing us to *the church of the future*. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come.

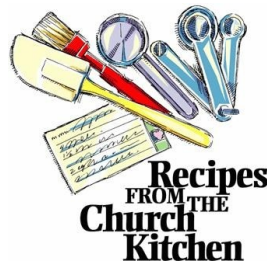
Pentecost arrives 50 days after Easter and 10 days after the Ascension - when Jesus ascends into heaven. Jesus and the Scriptures are making an important theological point at Pentecost. Jesus ascends and the church is born. If his mission and ministry is to continue, it is upon us, his disciples, to keep it going, and we have the Holy Spirit to lead us, who blesses us all with different gifts to be used at different times and in different ways. Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect with God's hope and future, supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults by building a life of faith. Congregations keep 40% of raised funds to initiate or support programs for young people in their communities.

First Presbyterian Church of Brazoria will be receiving this offering during the Easter season. Please note clearly that your contribution is for Pentecost. Thank you very much for whatever support you are able to provide this worthwhile mission.



**Presbyterian Women
April 28, 2024
following worship**

Our Presbyterian Women's Study will continue with Lesson Seven: An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus on April 28th. We invite you to join us for a light lunch after worship, followed by the Bible Study. Each lesson stands alone, so you do not need to have attended the previous lessons. For more information, contact Ginny Raska.



**Teacakes
submit by Ginny Raska and Gene Wilson**

1 cup sugar
1 egg
1/2 cup butter, barely melted
1/4 cup buttermilk
3 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Beat egg, add sugar and butter. Mix soda with buttermilk and add to mixture. Add vanilla and work in the flour, just enough to handle. Roll dough lightly and cut out cookies. Place on cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees until done.

SESSION

The session accepted the resignation of Danny Mikeska at the March meeting. He and Gail will be moving to Fayetteville soon. We thank him for his service and wish them every happiness in their new home. His term on the session ends this year, and the session decided not to hold a congregational meeting to elect someone to fill his unexpired term.

You are invited - to join
Delta Xi Chapter - Alpha Delta Kappa
 as they have a
Chicken Fried Steak Dinner by On The River



**Remember the Blessing Box
 and the Food Pantry**

Please bring donations for the Blessing Box and/or the Food Pantry when we have Communion. When you come to receive heavenly food, remember those who have no earthly food to eat. Please bring pantry items.

Date: April 18, 2024
Time: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Place: Fellowship Hall - Take Out Only
First Presbyterian Church
210 West Louisiana St.
Brazoria, TX 77422
Price: \$17.00 per plate (includes dessert)
Proceeds to benefit CHS Project Graduation,
St. Jude's, and Convention Attendance.
All donations on the dessert table go to CHS
project graduation 2024.

Thank you!



You are invited - to join
The Brazoria Study Club
 as they present
"A Musical Tea"

Thank you for your support.

Robin Harrington, 979-482-3750
Nancy Boyd, 979-415-4284

Date: April 17, 2024
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Place: Fellowship Hall
First Presbyterian Church
210 West Louisiana St.
Brazoria, TX 77422
Music by: Christine Scott



Samaritan Christmas Shoeboxes

We are collecting items now for the Samaritan Christmas Shoeboxes. Please save and bring to church items for the shoeboxes as you find them available. There will be a basket in the back of the sanctuary for your donations.

Thank you!
 Nancy (R) McLaren

ATTENDANCE

	Total	Elders	Facebook
3/3/24	24	6	66
3/10/24	22	5	52
3/17/24	19	5	66
3/24/24	18	6	33

Lectionary Gospel Readings for April:

Date	Gospel Passage
April 7, 2024	John 20:19-31
April 14, 2024	Luke 24:36b-48
April 21, 2024	John 10:11-18
April 28, 2024	John 15:1-8



***** TREASURER REPORT *****

February Income \$7,510.02
 February Expenses \$5,893.03

How Jesus says your name



It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

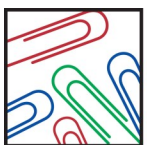
Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just "Woman ..." — and then a gardener: "Woman ..."

Except then — "Mary" — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus' mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

—Heidi Hyland Mann, Church Art Pro, April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Easter Monday Church Office Closed	2	3	4	5 10-Noon Food Pantry	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 10-Noon Food Pantry	13
14 Communion Bring Pantry Food	15	16	17 Building Use Brazoria Study Group	18 Building Use Chicken Fried Steak Dinner	19 10-Noon Food Pantry	20
21 Church Dinner Session	22	23	24	25	26 10-Noon Food Pantry	27
28 Presbyterian Women	29	30	31	Every Sunday 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship		Every Tuesday 10 a.m. Prayer Group 11 a.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. Game Night



Office Hours

The church office will generally be open Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The exception will be holidays.