



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Shelbyville, Tennessee
Sunday, March 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

I hope this weekly communication finds you and yours well. As a potent reminder that we are not out of the woods yet with this pandemic, I learned Sunday during our Confirmation Class several students have recently had to be quarantined due to possible COVID-19 exposure.

Sadly, this virus is still very much with us and just as deadly as ever. So, please continue to mask up, social distance and keep washing your hands. In time we may be able to gradually lift these protocols but clearly this is not the time. End of PSA.

We are nearing the end of our Lenten journey to Jerusalem. I hope you have had a memorable and meaningful Lenten journey so far. Holy Week will begin on Palm Sunday, March 28th. We will have a Maundy-Thursday service on April 1st at 5:30PM and then Easter, April 4th.

I am thrilled we will be able to meet in person for this special time in the life of this and hundreds of thousands of congregations. Like you, I felt cheated last year.

Speaking of Easter, we will be taking up our denomination's annual One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Easter Sunday. Starting this week, we will have bulletin inserts letting you know where your gifts will go and who will be helped through your generosity.

We will also have offering envelopes available for your convenience. Of course, if you want to send a check to the church office, just indicate on the memo line it is for the OGHs offering. And, thank you.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WOMEN AND MEN. No, this is not a plea for the Marines. It is a plea for volunteers who are willing to learn how to operate our new video system. Right now, we have just two people who can operate it and we need a few more to help lighten the load.

If you are interested please let me, Rob Marsh or Ginger Shofner, know and we will put your name on a list. We will let you know when we will hold a training session and give you a chance to operate the system before we completely hand the over the reins, or in this case the remote. Age is no limitation! Young and the not-so-young are both welcomed.

If you have driven by the church lately you may have noticed a flurry of activity in our playground area. That's because the church is getting new playground equipment, courtesy of our Parent's Day Out Program.

Theresa Phillips, our PDO director has been saving money for several years to purchase some new equipment. It is indeed an improvement and will be a wonderful play for our children to play and recreate.

In case you missed the announcement this past Sunday, a long-time member of FPC, Alice Durio joined the Church Triumphant this past Thursday. Bob is now a resident at Celebration Way Assisted Living facility. Please keep Bob in your prayers as he begins this part of his life's journey. When we have information regarding the family's plans for Alice, we will pass those along to you.

Elizabeth Gilliam will be filling the pulpit this Sunday. I know you will welcome her with open arms. Thank you.

Last, but not least, as we near the end of another month I will remind you (and myself as well) we will be putting together the April edition of our monthly newsletter, Anchor Links.

If you have something you would like included in next month's Anchor Links, it's not too early to get it in and checked off your list! (Note to self).

I hope you all have a wonderful week. Be smart and stay safe.

Grace and Peace, Taylor



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Kate Canady

Children and Youth Announcements

Cindy Lamb

Prelude

Billie Crowell

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: From near and far, in this place and across the World Wide Web, we enter this house together.

People: We want to see Jesus!

Leader: Hear the good news, all are welcome in the fellowship of Christ.

People: We come, drawn by grace and challenge, ready to follow in faith.

ALL: Let us worship God!

Prayer of Preparation

Holy one, dwell within us. Whisper in our ears. Glimmer in our vision. Write upon our hearts.
We wait with open ears, open eyes, open hearts. Amen.

Call to Confession

God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the earth.
Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession, before God and each other.
Let us pray.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Patient God, we come before you with so many things which weigh us down. We would like an "easy" faith, one that doesn't cause us to look within ourselves, to identify those many ways in which we have forsaken you. But faith is never easy. It requires our very souls. Forgive us, God, for what we have done and for what we have left undone. Prepare our lives to be of service to you. Open the eyes of our heart that we may see you and know your healing touch. AMEN.

Time of silent confession

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**The Congregation is invited to stand*

Assurance of Pardon

For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Minister: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.

Time for Children

Kate Canady

Children's Church

Cindy Lamb

Prayer for Illumination

God of life, open us now to receive your dream for our lives and your truth for the world.
Amen.

Scripture

Jeremiah 31:31-34 and John 12:20-33

Sermon

"We Wish to See Jesus"

Rev. Elizabeth Gilliam

Music

Billie Crowell

Profession of Faith

(written by S. Cramer)

We believe in a sacred power within and around us. A Divine Source that we call by many names and experience in many ways, that empowers and heals, that calls us forth. We believe in doing justice. Justice that compels and empowers us to risk whatever we must risk to create a climate in which all people can be who they are.

We believe in our dreams. We experience the world as it is, in both its ugliness and beauty, and we see what it can become. We believe in making peace. A peace that is based on openness, honesty and compassion. We believe in hope. We expect change to continue to occur in our world. We rely on our courage to continue to bring about these changes. All We believe in love. A passionate love within and around us that laughs and cries, challenges and comforts, a healing love that perseveres. We believe in life. Life that wells up within and flows out of us like a streaming fountain.

All glory be to God!

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

God of all, We give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves; may we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Thine is the kingdom, power and the glory forever. Amen.

Charge and Blessing

The time has come. Go, See, Believe, Love as you are loved be God. And may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Postlude

Billie Crowell



Children's Church Sundays during
Worship

Easter Egg Hunt-Saturday, April 3rd
10:30-11:30am at First Presbyterian
Church. RSVP by emailing Ms. Cindy
at clambteacher@aol.com



COMMUNION PREPARATION April 1
Maundy Thursday Aaron & Connie Crafton

COMMUNION PREPARATION April 4
Resurrection of the Lord/Easter~
Mary Marsh

Prayers

Matt Coroson
Evelyn Davidson
The Family and Friends of Alice
Durio Bob Durio
Pat Edmiston
Tommy Franks
Carolyn Matussek
The Family and Friends of Gail Parsons
Sheila Withers

In Military Service: LT Andy Canady,
Airman Chase Blanton.

Those serving at home and abroad.
Pray for our Nation!

Youth Ministry

Sunday Night March 21st 6:00pm

Fellowship Hall

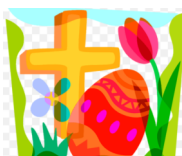
Dinner and some Fun

~Discussion ~

**“Trusting in the
gracious mercy of God, do you
turn from the ways of sin and
renounce evil and it's power in
the word?”**

Melanie Hamilton will be our guest
speaker to help us learn about the
various ministries in the church that
the students can be a part of.

All students are invited to attend.



God made you and God
made me,

He made the world for us to see.

God loves you and long ago,

He sent His Son to tell us so.

Jesus showed us many things,

To love and share and dance and
sing.

To learn and pray, to help and care,

He promised He'd always be there.

He died but then came back to life,

Let's celebrate for He's alive!

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE WEAR A MASK OUT OF RESPECT AND CONCERN FOR OTHERS

Sunday, March 21st

We welcome back to our pulpit Rev. Elizabeth Gilliam

Located at the back of the sanctuary

Our Daily Bread Devotionals for March-April-May

The Greatest Love – 10 Easter Reflections from Our Daily Bread

5 Cents-A-Meal Banks

Friday, March 26th

Book Club -11am – “*American Dirt*”

Sunday, March 28th

Palm Sunday

5 Cents A Meal Banks are due.

Saturday, April 3rd

Easter Egg Hunt – 10:30-11:30am - Email: Ms. Cindy at clambteacher@aol.com

There will be a hunt for preschool and one for elementary students.

Join us as we make crafts, bake cookies, and have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny,

We will have drawings for the world's largest stuffed bunny and Easter baskets give-aways.

Your monetary donation for candy and prizes is very much appreciated.

Monday, April 19th

Session – 5:30pm

NEED

1 for Hall Monitor and 4 for Nursery Help for April

For May: 8 Ushers; 4 Hall Monitors; 4 for Nursery Help

MISSION

Your help is needed – BackPacks need your financial support. At the end of March, our most vulnerable students will be out of school for a week. Pick up one of the little brown envelopes and place your donation inside.

Food Sunday for Good Samaritan

Drop off your food donations in the box outside the back entrance during office hours

Monday-Friday, 8:00am-1:00pm