April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1			1	2
3 10am Worship Sanctuary In person & FB Live Fellowship 5th Sunday of Lent	4 11-1 Food Pantry/ Louise	5	6 10am Bible Study (L) 6:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 12pm SMF Setup (S) 5pm MBU Spring Concert Rehearsal (S)	7 11-1 Food Pantry/Bill 2-8pm SMF Rehearsals (S)	8 7pm MBU Spring Choral Concert (S) 9-3pm SMF Rehearsals (S)	9 12pm SMF Free Concert (S) 7pm SMF Concert (S) SMF Rehearsal 9-12, 1:30-5
10 10am Worship Sanctuary In person & FB Live Fellowship Palm/Passion Sunday 4-6pm SMF Concert	11 11-1 Food Pantry/ Louise	12 10:30 PW Board Meeting (L)	13 10am Bible Study (L) 6:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) Heidi-out	14 11-1 Food Pan-try/Susie 6:30 Maundy Thursday service (FH)	15 Newsletter Deadline- May Good Friday	16
17 10am Worship Sanctuary In person & FB Live Fellowship Session Mtg. Easter Sunday	18 Easter Monday Church Offices Closed	19	20 PK—Study Leave	21 11-1 Food Pantry/Bill 5-10pm WSO Dress Rehear. (S)	22 6:30pm WSO rehearsal (S)	23 7:30pm WSO Chamber Concert (S)
24 10am Worship Sanctuary In person & FB Live Fellowship Rev. Janet Onnie preaching	25 11-1 Food Pantry/ Brad PK—Study Leave	26 PK—Study Leave	27 PK—Study Leave	28 11-1 Food Pantry/ Alice PK—Study Leave	29 PK—Study Leave	30

First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
Staunton, Virginia
April 2022

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we come up to the season of Resurrection, we know that the Word that was in the beginning, and the Word that was made flesh for us, and the Word that died for us culminates in the Word that triumphs over the grave – so with the psalmist we rejoice that the Word of God lasts forever (Is. 40, Ps. 119, 1 Peter, etc). Halleluiah!

Why is the Word so important to us? One of the ways our faith is cast is that we are a "People of the Book". While Bible reading used to be a "big deal", most recent statistics show that the majority of us are "biblically illiterate". There is a graph and numbers at https://www.statista.com/statistics/299433/bible-readership-in-the-usa, or just google "Biblical Illiteracy" and see how many articles pop up.

The question becomes, then, how do we know when something is "The Word?" One of the goals of the Protestant Reformation was that everyone should be able to hear the Bible in their own language. The early Presbyterians made it their goal to build schools before they built churches, so that everyone could READ the Bible in their own language.

Beloved, there is absolutely no way to determine scriptural truth if you don't read your Bible and explore that which you don't understand, or to which you haven't been introduced.

We recently had a couple, who has had the sanctuary booked for more than a year, decide to hold their wedding somewhere else because they couldn't use secular music for a worship service.

(cont. on p. 2)

First Impressions is a publication of First Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Karen H. Allamon, Pastor

Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

(Our wedding guidelines are clear on music expectations). Why not? Are we just mean? No, we are not.

Our Otto worked very hard with this couple to help them make choices that would fit a worship service AND their celebration. But they chose Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah to come down the aisle and wouldn't budge on it.

I love Leonard Cohen. He's a brilliant writer and musician. Many of his songs relate to his Jewish faith and could be used in a service of worship. But not Halleluiah. Just read these lyrics:

> *"Well, maybe there's a God above*
> *As for me all I've ever learned from love*
> *Is how to shoot somebody who outdrew you*
> *But it's not a crime that you're here tonight*
> *It's not some pilgrim who claims to have seen the Light*
> *No, it's a cold and it's a very broken Hallelujah"*

Yikes! Not appropriate fodder for a Christian wedding – or frankly for *any* wedding! Reading and hearing are critical to our faith. Scripture even warns us against our own yearning for words that aren't so challenging:

> *"The time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. "*
> *(1 Timothy)*

Our Presbyterian foundation defines the "real church" as that "where the Word is rightly preached, and the Sacraments are rightly administered." As we celebrate Resurrection, I urge you all to, as the Bride of Christ, fall in love with The Word all over again. It is in the light of scripture that all things should be done by a people called to be illuminated by the Word. That's our Easter Son Rise Service—a service of devotion and informed faith.

Hallelujah!

Pastor Karen

Other Community Events in April 2022

Sundays at 5
Concerts and Special Services presented by Trinity Episcopal Church

Bach, Banjos and the Hero's Journey
April 3, 2022
A captivating program of classical music on the banjo. In this interactive program, John engages the audience and invites them to reflect on their own hero's journey in life and in music.

Community Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 9, 2pm
Cornerstone Church of Augusta
1156 Tinkling Spring Rd.
Staunton, VA

Children of all ages are invited April 9th at 2pm to a FREE Community Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your favorite basket and your family.

Dentapalooza 2022
Saturday, April 23, 8am-6pm
342 Mule Academy Rd.
Fishersville, VA

Free Dental Care for uninsured residents of Augusta County, ages 18+. Includes:

- Free consultations
- Free cleanings
- Free fillings
- Free extractions

By appointment only. New patients welcomed.

For further info, please call 540-221-6635.

SPRING CONCERTS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN!

MBU Spring Choral Concert
Friday, April 8, 7:00pm—Sanctuary

Please join us for Mary Baldwin University's Spring Choral Concert in our sanctuary on Friday, April 8 at 7:00pm. The concert is free and open to the public.

Featuring:
MBU University Choir, Baldwin Singers, MBU Treble Choir, MBU Men's Ensemble, Baldwin Charm, Special Guest High School Choir

Staunton Music Festival Returns!

Please join us for upcoming concerts in our sanctuary presented by the Staunton Music Festival:

Saturday, April 9
12:00pm—Kaffeehaus Zimmermann—Free admission
7:00pm—The Old-Bachian Archive—$26

Sunday, April 10
10:00am—Enjoy music during our worship service
4:00pm—April in Paris: Versailles—$26

Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra
Saturday, April 23, 7:30pm—Sanctuary

Featuring:
Mozart—Symphony No. 41 in C major, K. 551 "Jupiter"
Gottschalk: Symphony no. 2, D. 99 (Romantique; Montevideo
Brahms: Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98

Lenten Bible Study Continues
April 6 and April 13, 2022

Morning Bible Study
Wednesdays 10AM Library

Evening Bible Study
Wednesdays at 6:30pm
via ZOOM *(link will be sent to enrollees)*

April Birthday List

2	Sherry Cox
	Robin Dietrich
	Bill Engle
	Elizabeth Lowman
5	Nancy Carey
	Bret Ritchie
8	Kola Danisa
	Fay Knicley
11	Molly Morris
14	Jean Cline
16	Sam A. Clem
17	Evan Lendermon
22	Jenny Dixon
23	Helen Wood
	Stephany Morgan

Worship for April

April 3 5th Sunday of Lent
Communion

Isaiah 43:16-21 (Behold, I Do a New Thing)
Gospel John 12:1-8 (Mary and the Anointing of Jesus' Feet)

April 10 Palm Sunday

"Conspiracy of Betrayal"
Satan vs. Judas in a courtroom drama
A Dramatic Reading by Dixie C. Manning
Directed by Dr. Renee Huff with Fay Knicley as Court Clerk;
JoAnn Tigert as Gabriel, the Judge; Robert Richards as the Bailiff;
Scott Wilson as Judas; Otto Pebworth as Satan; Gary Wilson
as Jesus; Amy Armstrong as Mary; Eddie Homes as Caiaphas;
Brad Furr as John

Thursday, April 14
Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae
Communion and the Service of Shadows
Fellowship Hall
6:30pm

April 17 Easter Sunday
Celebration of the Resurrection
Bring Fresh Cut Flowers for our Flower Cross!
Donate to decorate the sanctuary with
flowering plants in memory or honor of a loved one.
See form to contribute elsewhere in this newsletter.

April 24 2nd Sunday of Easter
Rev. Janet Onnie preaching
Elder Amanda Avery, liturgist

May 1 3rd Sunday of Easter
Elder Bill Engle preaching
Elder JoAnn Tigert, authorized for the Lord's Supper
by Shenandoah Presbytery, will administer communion.

COVID Alert

As of March 22, 2022: According to the Covid ActNow website (https://covidactnow.org/us/virginia-va/county/staunton_city/?s=27951685), the current risk level for contracting Covid in Staunton, VA is **high**. **Masks** are recommended if your community is very high risk, you have recently been exposed to or infected with COVID, or you've been told by a health professional to wear a mask based on your personal risk factors.

Get Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 2 sets of 4 free at-home tests. If you already ordered your first set, order a second today.

To order or for additional information,, please visit https://www.covidtests.gov/ or call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).

Virginia Dept. of Health—Current COVID-19 Data

As of March 2022, the Virginia Department of Health reports an 9.1% positivity rate and 127 cases are currently reported. Transmission rates are declining.

The most important public health action to end the COVID-19 pandemic is increasing vaccination coverage, which saves lives, prevents illness, and reduces the spread of the virus. Until vaccination coverage is high and community transmission of COVID-19 is low, together with public health officials, local decision makers and schools, businesses, and institutions (organizations) need to regularly assess the need for layered prevention strategies.

When determining community-level or school prevention strategies, understanding the level of disease transmission in the community is a critical first step.

For a comprehensive summary of COVID-19 cases and testing in Virginia, you can visit the Virginia Department of Health's website and view their COVID-19 dashboard at: vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/see-the-numbers/covid-19-in-virginia

For additional questions, please contact the VDH Call Center at **877-ASK-VDH3 (877-275-8343)**.

Special Delivery

First Presbyterian Food Pantry staff are working to develop a more formalized food delivery program to assist those unable to visit the pantry. Please let one of us know if you might be able to help out with this venture. Attractive salary and wonderful fringe benefits (just kidding!). But delivering food to an individual or family in need will make your day (no kidding!).

Alice Herbst, Pantry Director, skymontgarden@gmail.com
Brad Furr, M&O Co-chair, cbradfurr@gmail.com
Bill Engle, M&O Co-chair, william-engle@comcast.net

PW Board Meeting

There will be a PW Board Meeting Wednesday, April 12 at 10:30am in the Library.

Happy News!

Staley Ruth Clem and Matthew B. Ennis are engaged and anticipating a wedding on October 21, 2023.

Ruth grew up in the church and is a member. She willingly serves as a liturgist on special occasions and has been known to sing with members of her family.

Channing Brooks and Jacob Hruska are engaged and anticipating a wedding in Spring, 2023.

Channing was a very active part of our church when she attended Mary Baldwin. She is completing her degree at William and Mary.

Pastor Karen—Study Leave

Pastor Karen will be on Study Leave Thursday, April 21 through Tuesday, May 3. If you need pastoral care, please contact Clerk of Session Fay Knicley at 540-280-3235 and/or Pastor-on-call Rev. Caitilin R. Hoy at 804-888-1754.

Church Offices Closed Monday, April 18

The church offices will be closed on April 18 for Easter Monday. We hope everyone has a wonderful Easter!

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Order Easter Flowers!!

As we did pre-Covid, we will once again have a variety of colorful flowers in the front of the sanctuary on Easter morning. You may order Easter flowers in memory of or in honor of someone. Cost per plant is $10.00 each.

Ordered by_____ Phone _____

*I would like to order an Easter plant to the Glory of God and in **memory** of:*

_____

*I would like to order an Easter plant to the Glory of God and in **memory** of:*

_____

*I would like to order an Easter plant to the Glory of God and in **memory** of:*

_____

*I would like to order an Easter plant to the Glory of God and in **honor** of:*

_____

*I would like to order an Easter plant to the Glory of God and in **honor** of:*

_____

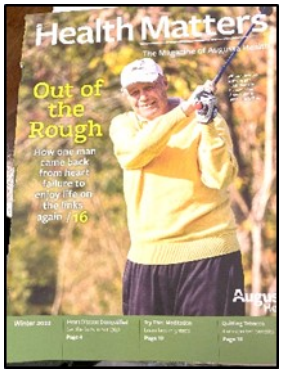
*I would like to order an Easter plant to the Glory of God and in **honor** of:*

_____

Total number of plants ____ x $10.00 = $_____

Please make your check out to First Presbyterian Church and note "Easter Flowers", then mail or drop by the office, or place in the offering plate.

News from the Pews



Congratulations to **Bill McIntyre** for Making the Cover of August Health's "Health Matters". We thank God for Bill's healthy heart!

Eddie Homes brought some lovely "Lenten Roses" for the first day of IN PERSON morning Bible Study.

Pastor Karen and **Pastor Jay** (Resurrection Anglican)

participated at the invitation of Chaplain Katie Low in bringing Ashes to the Mary Baldwin Campus on Ash Wednesday.

Congratulations to **Robert Richardson**, first place winner for basketball skills at the Special Olympics!