

APRIL 2021

First Presbyterian Church
260 W McLaughlin Ave
Madisonville KY 42431
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FPC TIDINGS



Special Dates...

- Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021
- Good Friday, April 2, 2021
- Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

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NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Maundy Thursday is on April 1 and we will have a special service in the sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. We will discuss and reflect upon the night that Jesus was betrayed. This service will last about 30 minutes and please join us in-person or by live stream.

Our Easter Sunrise service this year will be led by CRE Pete Phelan at 6:30 a.m. on Easter morning. Join Pete at the bell outside of the Chapel for this special morning service. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held indoors.

Easter Sunday is the highlight of the church year! An exciting service is planned and I look forward to seeing everyone then. It is a great time to invite someone to come

with you and we will also be sharing The Lord's Supper with one another.

Our annual One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be collected on Easter Day during worship. Information about this year's offering can be found on the table at the church entrance.

A big thanks to youth who shared with us their gifts of music last month! Thanks to Parker Evans for playing clarinet, Hudson Stahl for playing violin and Jackson Bower for playing cello.

We'll recognize the winner of our March Madness bracket contest in April. Good luck!



It's been great having some extra help on Sunday mornings! Thanks to Kellan and Kason Stocke for helping with the lighting of our candles!

BELIEVING IN

Sometimes we get caught up in thinking we need to understand God in order to have faith. But faith is more about trust than knowledge; it's more about believing in someone than believing information. A child, for instance, doesn't have to know the precise roads to Grandma's house; he only needs to believe *in* his parents and their ability and desire to get him

there safely. Similarly, we need not understand all the intricacies of how God works; we can take a cue from the disciples and let belief *in* the risen Christ transform and empower us.

In the words of Madeleine L'Engle (*The Rock That Is Higher*): "The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed

something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid."

YOUR LIFE IS ETERNALLY SIGNIFICANT

Many times, an incident, problem, or occasion will arise and we ask: is this eternally significant? And honestly most are not. However, the way we live is significant. It goes without saying that the only things of eternal value in this world are those that are eternal. Life in this world is temporal, not eternal, and therefore, the only part of life that has eternal value is that which lasts through eternity. Clearly, the most important thing in this world that has true eternal value is having a relationship with Jesus Christ, as the free gift of eternal life comes only through Him to all those who believe ([John 3:16](#)). As Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through the son” ([John 14:6](#)). Everyone is going to live somewhere for all of eternity, Christians and non-Christians alike. And the only eternal destiny other than the one in heaven with Christ is one that provides everlasting punishment for those who reject Him ([Matthew 25:46](#)). Regarding the abundant material things this world offers Jesus taught us not to store up for ourselves earthly treasures that can be destroyed or stolen ([Matthew 6:19–20](#)). After all, we brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it. Yet our core Christian values often get overlooked in our diligent quest for success and material comfort, and in the midst of these earthly pursuits we often forget about God. There is certainly no eternal value in living our lives for ourselves, looking to get out of life all that we can, as the world

system would have us believe. Yet, there can be significant eternal value in what we do with our lives during the exceedingly short time we are here on earth. Although Scripture makes it clear that our earthly good works will not save us or keep us saved ([Ephesians 2:8–9](#)), it is equally clear that we will be eternally rewarded according to what we have done while here on earth. As Christ Himself said, “For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father’s glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he has done” ([Matthew 16:27](#)). Indeed, Christians are God’s workmanship, “created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do” ([Ephesians 2:10](#)). These “good works” pertain to serving the Lord the best we can with what He has given us and with full dependence on Him. The apostle Paul discusses the quality of the works that can bring eternal rewards ([1 Corinthians 3:11–13](#)). Essentially, Paul is telling us that not all of our conduct and works will merit rewards. There are many ways our service to the Lord will bring us rewards. First, we need to recognize that every true believer has been set apart by God and for God. When we received God’s gift of salvation, we were given certain spiritual gifts ([1 Corinthians 12:7, 11](#)). And if we think our gifts are insignificant, we need to remember that, as Paul told the church in Corinth, the body of Christ is made up of many parts. And “God has arranged the parts in the body just as He wanted them to be . . . and

those parts of the body that seem weaker are indispensable” ([1 Corinthians 12:14, 18, 22](#)). If you are exercising your spiritual gifts, you are playing a significant role in the body of Christ and doing that which has eternal value. Every member of Christ’s body can make meaningful contributions when we humbly seek to build up the body and to glorify God. Remember, on earth Christ has no body but ours, no hands but ours, and no feet but ours. Spiritual gifts are God’s way of administering His grace to others. When we show our love for God by obeying His commandments, when we persevere in the faith despite all opposition and persecution, when in His name we show mercy to the poor and sick and less fortunate, and when we help alleviate the pain and suffering that is all around us, then we are indeed building with the “things” that have true eternal value.

Grace be with you all,

Pastor Pete

A GRAND ENTRANCE

Decades ago, as English actress Gertrude Lawrence waited behind the curtain for a play to begin, the queen upstaged her by arriving at the royal box to much applause. "What an entrance," Lawrence remarked, to which her friend, playwright Noel Coward, replied, "What a part!"

Jesus certainly made a grand entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, entering to adoring shouts of "Hosanna!" But worldly

glory and fame weren't his intent. Instead, our Lord knew that his Father had prepared a sacrificial role for him. Jesus handled the adulation with dignity and poise. The humble yet courageous Son of God knew that danger, despair and death awaited — but that he must endure it all to fulfill prophecy for humanity's sake.

The pageantry of Palm Sunday is a stark contrast to the role of Suffering Servant that Je-

sus faced a few short days later. Yet each event during Holy Week represents victory — for Jesus as well as for his beloved children.

Palm Sunday is a glorious day, so let us wave palms and shout, "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" The Savior has come. What an entrance! What a part!



Finances At A Glance—February 2021

		YTD	
Income	\$27,877.79	YTD Income	\$40,131.89
Expense	<u>-\$20,986.25</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$47,954.36</u>
Net	\$6,891.54	YTD Net	-\$7,822.47
Undesignated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$25,287.79	Income	\$36,093.91
Expense	<u>-\$18,005.00</u>	Expense	<u>-\$42,326.31</u>
Net	\$7,282.79	Net	-\$6,232.40
Designated		YTD Designated	
Income	\$2,590.00	Income	\$4,037.98
Expense	<u>-\$2,981.25</u>	Expense	<u>-\$5,628.05</u>
Net	-\$391.25	Net	-\$1,590.07

Operating Funds

Beginning Balance	\$117,978.78
Ending Balance	\$125,302.47
Investment Account	\$209,345.00

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!



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|------|---------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 4th | Charlie Evans | 26th | Mary George Peyton |
| 5th | Kendrick Nuttall | 27th | Meredith Evans |
| 6th | Aimee Smiley | 28th | Olivia Thomas |
| 7th | Anna Leasure | 30th | Russell & Susan Fischels (AO) |
| 10th | Doug & Suzanne Henley (A) | | |
| 19th | Michael Skultety | | |
| | Phyllis Klym | | |
| 23rd | Patsy Sutton | | |



April 2021



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
						
4 6:30 SonRise Service 10:15 Easter Service	5	6 1:30 Bible Study 6:00 Session Mtg	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 1:30 Bible Study	14 5:30 Bible Study	15	16	17
18	19	20 1:30 Bible Study	21 5:30 Bible Study	22	23	24
25	26	27 1:30 Bible Study	28 5:30 Bible Study	29	30	