



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

“A Living Hope”

April Edition

Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

Office Details

Hours: 8:00-1:00

(Emails answered throughout the day)

Aldersgate@ftc-i.net

(803) 775-1602

211 Alice Drive

Staff

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Laura Whitt

(Ext. 101)

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Brooke Staniec

(Ext. 100)

Custodian: Shpendi Dani

All through Lent, Christians look forward to proclaiming that “Christ is risen!” The resurrection is our declaration that death doesn’t win. Life begins anew. One of my favorite symbols of new life is flower bulbs—crocuses, daffodils, jonquils, tulips. The bulbs themselves look dead, get buried and God continues to work bringing new life and glorious little flowers when winter tries desperately to linger. Crocuses may be my favorites. They lined my grandmother’s walk and would often determinedly poke up through the last snow to declare that spring was coming.

Daryl’s favorite spring flower is the hyacinth. He has been trying to force bulbs to bloom this spring. The bulbs were placed in containers, then they went into a dark cooler, and there they stayed. When they started to show growth, he moved them to the shelf under the window by his desk. Most of the bulbs failed. Some had growth that stopped when they were moved to his office. Some of those stunted plants bloomed determinedly. Daryl’s bulbs are often a reminder that new life isn’t guaranteed under our careful control.

In fact, this last month has had reminders that we seem to be tightly held by violence and death. Our own community experienced the inexplicable death of three children at the hands of their father/step-father. This week, we have heard of three children and three adults shot down in a private Christian school in Nashville. We are reaching the point where mass shootings or school shootings are so common that people are personally experiencing them more than once. This is like seeing a moldy bulb – it didn’t have enough of something and too much of something else. Our world experiences far too little love, hope, and joy and way too much anger, fear, hate, and violence.

Mom, on the other hand, doesn’t try to force bulbs to grow on her schedule and plants them in some unexpected places. After Daddy passed away, she planted crocus bulbs at his grave. They faithfully bloom each year within a couple of days to the anniversary of his death. Mom calls this a “God wink”. It is a reminder that death is not the end.

She simply planted the bulbs and trusted God to keep them blooming each year. It is a sign of her hope that God is always bringing forth new life. She may not get to control that new life, but as a gardener she gets to participate in God’s work by caring for and celebrating new life. I heard this hope and joy when she and her doctor shifted from talking about her health (she’s okay) to mowing their lawns, planting bulbs, and planning for what to plant next. The whole tenor of their conversation changed. He slowed down from his business voice to being himself. Her voice picked up. The rhythm of the conversation changed just like the seasons.

Easter is our reminder that God is always at work bringing forth new life – resurrection hope. Resurrection hope isn’t limited to our hope of “going to heaven”. Resurrection hope is confidence that God is always working to bring forth new life and gives us the opportunity to be part of that new life. As worldly ways die, our joy in Christ grows. Our life of faith is seen not in blooms but in just as varied acts of compassion, justice, and love.

My prayer for us as Christians is that we become voices that add to the peace, hope, love, and joy in the world. Christ invites us to participate in God’s mission of reconciliation. The world needs to hear that “Christ is risen”. The risen Christ calls for us not to just complain about the acts of senseless violence, but to also participate with God in the face of death to bring forth new life. Our world needs to experience acts of compassion that show our love and care for all. It also needs to experience acts of justice that call the world to live in new life-giving ways.

To act in the face of such tragedy requires hope. 1 Peter is a letter that proclaims our hope. Our Eastertide (the Great 50 Days of Easter) sermon series is “A Living Hope”. May resurrection hope in Christ be what motivates us to participate in God’s mission of reconciliation and new life.

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Laura*





Holy Week

Holy week will begin Sunday, April 2nd with a Palm Sunday service. Maundy Thursday service will be April 6th at 6:30PM. Good Friday service will be April 7th at 1:00PM. (The office will be open on Good Friday) Join us Sunday, April 9th, as we celebrate Easter and our risen Savior.

BASKET AUCTION

In observance of Holy week our annual Basket Auction will be **Wednesday, April 19th**. We're seeking out basket donations so if you can or know someone who can, please let Brooke know ASAP. All proceeds from the auction go to our backpack ministry and this is their biggest fundraiser of the year, help us make it a great one. We hope to see you there. *(We will begin ticket sales 1st week of Apr)*



The UMM will host a meal for the FireAnts on April 1st as they play in double header games that begin at 1:00PM. Come out and support the FireAnts and have a great time, meal will begin around 5/5:30PM.

The UMM will be hosting their district training Saturday, April 15th 9AM-3PM in the fellowship hall.

The UMM will also host a movie night on Friday, April 21 at 6:30PM. They will be showing "The Redemption".



Senior Trip (4th Friday Lunch) will be April 28th and the bus is headed to Olive Garden in Florence. Let Brooke or Dave Gohn if you want to go.



Salad Lunch will be Wednesday, May 17th. Tickets will be \$10.00 with (4) salads per box.



First Aid/CPR training will be Friday, April 21st. We have limited spot available, let Brooke know ASAP if you want to participate.



Easter lilies are \$9.00 this year, please have your request in no later than April 3rd. Also, remember to bring your flowers to decorate our outdoor cross on Easter Sunday.

OUR PRAYERS:

- Lynn Boan
- Family of Pat Boozer
- Family of Connie Snow
- Griffin Family
- Scott/Stephanie Smith
- Betty Hodges
- Betty Heacker
- Larry & Garland Nettles
- Allen Prescott
- Gene Hunter
- Ed & Carolyn Hudson
- Everett Burroughs
- Bill Brattain
- (Marsha Witbeck's cousin)
- Bill Fleury
- Rex Riddle
- Sandy Richardson
- Christy Richardson
- Arawana
- Bill Reither
- Sam Crawford
- Sarah Sari
- All Homebound Members

Please let us know when we need to remove someone from this list.



April 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship						1 FireAnt/UMM Game 1:00 P Meal 5/5:30P
2 Palm Sunday	3 WOW 5:30P	4 Jenky's 10A Circle #2 7P	5 UMM 7A Disciple Bible Study 9A & 5:30P	6 Maundy Thurs. Service 6:30P	7 Good Friday Service 1P	8
9 Easter Sunday	10 WOW 5:30P Office Closed for Spring Break	11 Office Closed for Spring Break	12 UMM 7A Disciple Bible Study 9A & 5:30P	13 Knitters 10A	14	15 UMM District Training 9A-3P
16	17 WOW 5:30P	18 UWF Board 6:30P	19 UMM 7A Disciple Bible Study 9A & 5:30P	20	21 CPR/1st Aid Training 8:30A Movie Night 6:30P "The Redemption"	22
23	24 WOW 5:30P	25	26 UMM 7A Disciple Bible Study 9A & 5:30P	27 Knitters 10A	28 Senior Trip 12P Olive Garden	29
30						



Stewardship Report			
Year to date - through Feb. 2023			
Actual revenue	Actual Expenses	Budgeted revenue	Budgeted expenses
\$ 78,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 88,000.00

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4 Greg Copeland	14 Sam Crawford
5 Connie Wallace	15 Mark Sari
5 Andrew Griffin	17 Jackie Hepler
5 Brandon Griffin	21 Suzann Gibson
12 Pat Player	22 Bob Abbott
13 Cat Bowman	25 Marvin Vannoy
13 Maggie Bowman	27 Dave Gohn
	29 Lin Hendrix