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# The CHIMES Newsletter

## APRIL 1, 2024

### Pastor's THOUGHTS



#### Catch the Tide!

There's a decent part of me that is wondering what to do with this whole month in front of me. Easter in March, Pentecost in May, what in the world are we going to do with April this year?

Just kidding. I know exactly what is happening in April. It's Eastertide! Sometimes called the Easter Season or Paschaltide, Eastertide is a season in the liturgical year of the Christian church that focuses on celebrating the resurrection of Jesus and also the beginnings of the Church. It traditionally lasts 50 days, from Easter until it ends with Pentecost. The origins of the season are actually drawn from Jewish tradition, as there were 50 days between Pesach (Passover) and Shavu'ot, the Feast of Weeks, which celebrated the giving of the Torah after being freed from slavery in Egypt. Shavu'ot is the reason there were a lot of people in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was given to the disciples.

Eastertide is a bit of an odd season. It isn't a time of preparation, like Advent or Lent, and there aren't a lot of special activities, events, or meanings that are celebrated across

many traditions. In fact, the only thing Protestant churches really do to celebrate the season is to replace the Old Testament Reading with one from the book of Acts in the lectionary (a list of scripture readings appointed for every week in a three-year cycle).

But why let this season pass us by without some kind of recognition? After all, we live near the ocean, and have some experience with paying attention to the Tides, right?

Consider this – if Lent is a “low tide” season that focuses on preparation, penitence, fasting, and holiness, the time between Easter and Pentecost is to be celebrated as something of a “high tide” season. Celebrating the resurrection is of chief importance, yes, but that's just one day. We are called to take our time to look around and appreciate all the signs of resurrection, life, hope, and joy that can be found this time of year.

Now that we're (hopefully) past some of the worst part of allergy season, we can particularly enjoy the fresh green of leaves on trees, blooming flowers, and fresh fruits making their way into grocery

stores. We can eat outside and enjoy the warmth of sun, but also the coolness of shade and breezes. We can appreciate the presence of butterflies, the birth of new animals (did you hear the zoo has a baby sloth and are anticipating the birth of baby coatis?), and many other examples of ways that we can be witnesses to the glory and grace of God.



Eastertide is not a time of obligation or hard work, or obligations of piety. It is a time of celebration that God is good, that life prevails over death, that grace wins out over sin, that we all have new beginnings and opportunities. I pray we all have a lovely Eastertide season!

# Session Summary

The session met on March 19th. Matters discussed included the following:

- Tree trimming and removal will be taking place the Monday before Easter – we are planning on informing groups that meet here to keep cars away from trees.
- Discussed upcoming June Presbytery meeting, which we will be hosting.
- Recruited elder commissioners for upcoming Presbytery meeting.
- Treasurer's Report: The year-to-date numbers still show a strong surplus, due to gifts made for the year these first couple of months. We will still be keeping a close eye on expenses, as the quarterly insurance payment comes due in March and we are still not sure what a "typical" month's income will look like.
  - ◆ Average Monthly Expenses: \$20,553.64
  - ◆ Actual Expenses in February: \$ 15,627.50
  - ◆ Contributions in February: \$ 25,120.65
  - ◆ Income for 2024: \$ 56,889.08
  - ◆ Expenses for 2024: \$ 30,474.63
  - ◆ Surplus year-to-date: \$ 26,414.45



## Thank you for Supporting One Great Hour of Sharing

Thank you to all who supported the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. These three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need, often intersecting into moments of despair and brokenness and offering physical presence and a supporting hand. From initial disaster response, alleviation of hunger, to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Thank you for making this possible!

## Special Offering in April—Mother's Day with Operation Hope!

During April, we hope that you will look around your home for items that could be donated to be a special gift for mothers – costume jewelry, a special scented bar of soap or bottle of lotion, a scarf to accent an outfit, or just a gift bag that could be used to wrap up other such items. We were fortunate to be able to pull some items from the yard sale that could help with this collection, but we will be putting out a collection bin to hold other donations starting on Sunday, April 28th in support of Operation Hope's annual Mother's Day celebration. Families in Fellsmere, Florida are invited to this celebration to receive food to help fill their pantries, and the women are given special tokens of love and care at the same time.

## Church Yard Sale a Great Success!

Were you a part of the Yard Sale this year? I bet you were – it feels like everyone was here at some point in the week, helping move

tables after worship, bringing in items from our sheds, bringing in items from their homes, organizing everything to group like items together, and being present the day of the sale to help people find and purchase items to take home! It was a phenomenal effort, but we sold most of the items that were donated and raised about \$2000 to go towards the Shoe Mission (that's 80 gift cards!). Thank you to all who participated, but especially to Marsha Carter for organizing, Jim Corton, Terry Twardzik, Barb and Sam Musgrave, Monia and John Yust, who were there every day, Rose Fausey, Joan Doran, Judy Irvine, Sue Clark were in and out during the week, and Nancy Cox, Terry Twardzik, and Marsha Carter, who provided food and snacks for the volunteers!



# Easter Lily Donations

## **Cheryl & Grady Evans**

In memory of Linda Wilke.

## **Judy Rutter**

In memory of loved ones lost and  
in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Vicki & Mark Cather**

In memory of Pat & Bob Cather  
and Laura & Calvin Ball.

## **Anna Wood**

In memory of Adian & Betty  
Oskam.

## **Clyde & Marylynn Yust**

In memory of Charles & Jean Yust  
and James & Eleanor Berry.

## **Sue & Vince D'Imperio**

In memory of Mary D'Imperio and  
Joann Warwick.

## **Heidi & Richard Edwards**

In memory of Linda Davenport  
Hatfield. In honor of Joyce  
Stewart.

## **Judy Irvine**

In honor of her grandsons,  
Zachary & Sean's 27th Birthdays.

## **Sam & Barbara Musgrave**

In memory of loved ones.

## **Inez Rose**

In memory of our risen Lord and  
of her family.

## **John & Monia Yust**

In honor of their family.

## **Karola DeLuca**

In memory of her brother Frank  
Roth.

## **Debra, Chris & Evelyn Cox**

In Celebration of Our Risen Lord.

# Notes from Central Florida Presbytery

Dear Debra,

We are writing to thank your congregation for their financial support for the ministry and mission of Central Florida Presbytery ... we want the members of your congregation to know that their mission contributions and their faith are cherished by the members of the Council and our Presbytery.

As you may know, Central Florida Presbytery is in the midst of an important transition as we seek a new Executive Presbytery to guide our leadership team. We are grateful for the support of our Stated Clerk – the Reverend Christina Greenawalt, our Associate Presbytery Executive – Dr. Cheryl Carson, our amazing Presbytery staff, and our Interim Co-Executive Presbyters – The Reverend Olivia Haney and the Reverend Dr. Hoover Haney.

We know that this is not an easy time for many of our congregations and yet you and many others are stepping up and showing your trust in the goodness and provision of God and offering your financial gifts with glad and generous hearts. Every financial gift to Central Florida Presbytery is a testimony of faith that you believe that God has a good plan for us and you are willing to show your support for that plan. Now more than ever – every gift from every congregation that is part of the family of churches that make up Central Florida Presbytery is needed.

As we enter the season of Lent and look toward Easter we are grateful to Go for Every gift that support the ministry of Central Florida Presbytery. We wish your congregation God's blessing this Easter.

In Christ,

John Rogers, Moderator

Rev. Dr. Paige McRight, Chair – CFP Council

Rev. Dr. Michael Foley, Chair of Stewardship and Generosity

## Central Florida Presbytery Day of Prayer



As part of the Presbytery's Strategic Planning process for the future, all are invited to gather together for a Day of Prayer as we seek to hear the direction the Spirit has for our ministry together. On Friday, April 19th, 2024, all in the Presbytery can gather at one of four locations from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., so that our process is grounded in and surrounded by prayer. In preparation for this day, the Strategic Planning Team asks that you reflect on Acts 1-3. The location closest to Palm Bay will be First Presbyterian Church in Sebastian, located at 1405 Louisiana Avenue, Sebastian, FL 32958.



## Sunday School Class Romans

The Sunday School Class is continuing their look at the book of Romans. From the resource book: The book of Romans was Paul's greatest literary achievement, a majestic letter in which the apostle expounds on crucial doctrines such as original sin, election, substitutionary atonement, the role of the law, and justification by faith alone. Plumbing the theological depths, Jared Wilson writes with a pastor's eye toward understanding and application as he explains the biblical text with clarity and passion, helping readers follow along as Paul recounts the history of salvation and illuminated the glories of the cross. The class meets every Sunday at 8:45 in the CE building library.

## Wednesday in the Word Bible Study

With the Lenten Studies coming to an end, it is time for the regular Wednesday group to start meeting again. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, April 3rd and we will be sharing in a devotion and deciding what to study next. Bring a lunch, your questions, and your curiosity about the Bible and share them with Pastor Debra and one another.



Clyde & Marylynn Yust  
April 10

Lorraine & Blair Burns  
April 11

Harry & Donna Wolford  
April 16

Vincent & Sue D'Imperio  
April 19

Judy & Art Irvine  
April 30

## Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon for April will be held

Thursday, April 25th, at

11:30 a.m. at Squid Lips, 1477 Pineapple Ave., Melbourne. Please contact Marsha Carter at [macarter1950@yahoo.com](mailto:macarter1950@yahoo.com) for more information. Last day for sign up will be April 21st.



## Thank You to Those Who Blessed Us in Worship in March

Elder of Month: **Brian Clark**  
Ushers: **Judy Rutter, Elvie Marshall, Ron Shane, Marsha Carter, Evelyn Cox, Anna Wood, Mike Nardelli, Ronnie Dayton, Nancy Cox**  
Flowers Donated By: **Jack & Ronnie Dayton, Brian Young & Carolyn Teal, Donna Aguilera, Ron & Georgia Shane**



Marlin Fausey  
April 2

Patti Loyd  
April 11

Gary Inman  
April 12

Winston Melbourne  
April 12

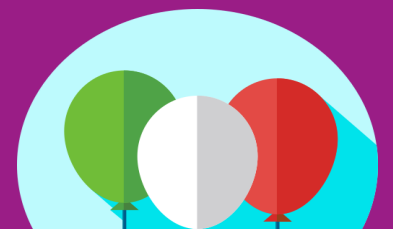
Robert Ritter  
April 12

Judy Quirico  
April 15

Monia Yust  
April 19

John Yust  
April 21

Evelyn Moon  
April 27



# Lenten Study Class – Thank you for Coming!

Thank you to all who attended and made the Lenten Study classes possible! We had wonderful turnouts each week, averaging 30 participants over the two class sessions. It is very meaningful that so many engaged in reading and discussing our study book, Epic. For those who missed it, we do have a few copies of the book left and are happy to give them out to you! A special thank you to all those who made sure we had something to eat by making soup or bringing bread: Cheryl Evans, Terry Twardzik, Marylynn Yust, Sue Clark, Barbara Musgrave, Monia Yust, Connie Brazee, Ronnie Dayton, Judy Rutter, Chris and Evelyn Cox, Judy Irvine, Elvie Marshall, Sue D’Imperio, Vicki Cather, Marsha Carter, and Nancy Cox. Finally, a special thank you to Sue Clark, who organized all the soup and bread volunteers, and to Terry Twardzik, Sue Clark, and Barbara Musgrave, who all worked regularly on setting up, making tea and lemonade, bringing over supplies, and cleaning up after study sessions!

## Renewal Grant Submitted!

Thank you to everyone who attended and gave feedback at the Renewal Grant presentation in March. Your comments and ideas were incorporated into the grant proposal, which was then approved by Session and submitted to be considered. We won’t hear back until August whether we will be awarded a grant, but this process has helped to inspire all those who worked on it to be engaged with renewal efforts in the congregation. That’s already a win!



## Word from the Herd

Please keep Clyde and Marylynn Yust in prayer – Clyde had a successful major surgery to remove cancer from his tongue, and will need recovery from that procedure. Marylynn is also in the midst of a cancer treatment series.

Please keep the family of Kathleen Davis in prayer, as she went to be with the Lord on Saturday, March 23rd.

## Hummingbird Cake



### Ingredients

#### FOR THE CAKE

- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 1/3 c. granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 c. canola oil
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 8-oz. cans crushed pineapple in juice, undrained
- 2 ripe bananas, chopped
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- Nonstick baking spray with flour

#### FOR THE FROSTING

- 3/4 c. unsalted butter, softened
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 4 c. powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt

#### FOR DECORATING

- 1 c. toasted pecan halves

### Directions

[SAVE RECIPE](#)

- 1 | For the cake: Preheat the oven to 350°.
- 2 | Whisk together the flour, sugar, cinnamon, salt, baking soda, and baking powder in a large bowl. Stir in the oil, eggs, vanilla, and pineapple until evenly combined. Mash the bananas then add to the bowl with the pecans. Stir to combine.
- 3 | Spray 2 (8-inch) round baking pans with nonstick baking spray (or, butter and flour the pans). Divide the batter evenly between the prepared pans. Bake in the preheated oven until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes out with just a few small crumbs, 33 to 37 minutes. Cool the cakes in the pans on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Invert the cakes onto the wire rack and cool completely, about 1 hour.
- 4 | For the frosting: Beat the butter and cream cheese in a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment on medium until smooth and creamy, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the powdered sugar then mix at low speed just until combined. Scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl. Add the vanilla and salt. Beat frosting on medium-high speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes.
- 5 | Place one of the cake layers on a serving plate and top with about 1 cup of the frosting, spreading evenly to the edge. Top with the second cake layer. Spread the remaining frosting on the top and sides of the cake.
- 6 | To decorate the cake: Press the pecan halves along the base of the cake and around the top of the cake to create a ring. Slice and serve.



# April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	<b>2</b> 10:30 am <b>DAILY BREAD</b> 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	<b>3</b> 12:00 noon <b>BIBLE</b> <b>STUDY</b> 1:30 pm <b>CHOIR</b> <b>PRACTICE</b> 7:00 pm <b>BAND</b>	<b>4</b> 6:15 pm NA	<b>5</b> 5:00 pm <b>LIFELINE</b> <b>BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10:00 am <b>WORSHIP</b> <b>COMMUNION SERVICE</b>	<b>8</b> 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	<b>9</b> 11:30 am <b>CHOIR</b> <b>PRACTICE</b> 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	<b>10</b> 12:00 noon <b>BIBLE</b> <b>STUDY</b> 7:00 pm <b>BAND</b>	<b>11</b> 6:15 pm NA	<b>12</b> 5:00 pm <b>LIFELINE</b> <b>BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10:00 am <b>WORSHIP</b> <b>WORSHIP COMMITTEE</b> <b>MEETING</b>	<b>15</b> 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	<b>16</b> 11:30 am <b>CHOIR</b> <b>PRACTICE</b> 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 6:30 pm <b>ADMIN</b> 7:00 pm <b>SESSION</b> 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	<b>17</b> 12:00 noon <b>BIBLE</b> <b>STUDY</b> 7:00 pm <b>BAND</b>	<b>18</b> 6:15 pm NA	<b>19</b> 5:00 pm <b>LIFELINE</b> <b>BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:00 am <b>WORSHIP</b> <b>DEACONS' MEETING</b> <b>OPERATION HOPE BEGINS</b>	<b>22</b> <b>CHIMES DEADLINE</b> 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	<b>23</b> 11:30 am <b>CHOIR</b> <b>PRACTICE</b> 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	12:00 noon <b>BIBLE</b> <b>STUDY</b> 7:00 pm <b>BAND</b>	<b>25</b> 6:15 pm NA	<b>26</b> 5:00 pm <b>LIFELINE</b> <b>BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:00 am <b>WORSHIP</b> 5¢ A MEAL	<b>29</b> 12:00 noon AL-ANON 6:00 pm AL-ANON— LADIES ONLY	<b>30</b> 11:30 am <b>CHOIR</b> <b>PRACTICE</b> 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS				



# IN THE WORD

## First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Daily Devotion

<p>April 1 <b>Read Psalm 118:1-2</b> With what tone might you have read these psalm verses on Holy Saturday versus Easter Sunday? How do we trust in God's love through all things, both good and difficult?</p>	<p>April 2 <b>Read Psalm 118: 14-16</b> What experiences have you had that would allow you to say with the psalmist, "The Lord ... has become my salvation." What is included in your victory songs?</p>	<p>April 3 <b>Read Psalm 118: 17-18</b> Have you ever felt sure you knew the outcome of something, only to be surprised? How did you re-orient your thinking to understand how a different outcome was possible?</p>
<p>April 4 <b>Read Psalm 118: 19-20</b> These verses do not say exactly the same thing—the first might be considered a plea to be (or be found) righteous, while the second states a fact about the gate to God's home.</p>	<p>April 5 <b>Read Psalm 118: 21-23</b> The gratitude of the psalmist is not just for one deed, but the way in which the Lord sees, rescues, and honors those who have previously been rejected—marvelous, indeed!</p>	<p>April 6 <b>Read Psalm 118: 24</b> Freed from personal suffering and pain, the psalmist does not rejoice in his new state, but is able to look around and see all the glory of the day around him, and enjoy it fully.</p>
<p>April 7 <b>Read 1 John 1: 1-2</b> John, in these verses, assures the reader, that all that is said is something he experienced personally (saw, touched, etc.), which helped him to understand what God was doing.</p>	<p>April 8 <b>Read 1 John 1: 1-3</b> The reason for writing down and sharing all they knew about Christ was not for themselves, but that others would also know and share in Christ's fellowship.</p>	<p>April 9 <b>Read 1 John 1: 4</b> This verse is lovely—our joy is not complete if some are left out. Isn't that the best way to tell someone why we want so badly to share the Good News of Christ?</p>
<p>April 10 <b>Read 1 John 1: 5-7</b> The message that we share is both expansive and restrictive—we cannot testify that we follow a good God yet commit evil. By our actions, we confirm or deny what we say about God.</p>	<p>April 11 <b>Read 1 John 1: 8-10</b> Being honest about our sin doesn't harm our witness or our relationship with God—admitting we are sinners is honest, and testifies to the truth of God's grace given to us in Christ.</p>	<p>April 12 <b>Read 1 John 2: 1</b> We should not live as though we are immune from the consequences of sin. Rather, by acknowledging its presence, we can invite Christ to address it, and reject sin in our lives.</p>
<p>April 13 <b>Read 1 John 2: 1-2</b> These verses are both comforting and challenging—have confidence in what Christ has done for you, but don't treat it lightly or take advantage. Remember, this is for you, but also for the whole world.</p>	<p>April 14 <b>Read Luke 24:33-35</b> This is the end of the story of the Road to Damascus, when Jesus appeared to travelers—as soon as they knew who was with them, they ran back to Jerusalem to share the news with the other disciples!</p>	<p>April 15 <b>Read Luke 24: 36</b> In the midst of the disciples' excited conversation about seeing Jesus alive at the tomb and on the road, Jesus appears in their midst. Saying, "peace." Would you be calm about this?</p>

# First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Daily Devotion

<p>April 16  <b>Read Luke 24: 37-38</b>                      It is amusing that Jesus is so surprised at the disciples' fear at seeing him—they thought they were seeing a ghost! How would you react?</p>	<p>April 17  <b>Read Luke 24: 39-40</b>                      Jesus moves from chastisement to comfort—he gives the disciples something to see and touch to be reassured he is real, and alive.</p>	<p>April 18  <b>Read Luke 24: 41-43</b>                      Jesus takes the proof further—he eats in their presence. He replaces the “last supper” experience with this “first breakfast” with them!</p>
<p>April 19  <b>Read Luke 24: 44-46</b>                      Now that everyone is calm and confident, Jesus connects his resurrection with scripture, and opens their minds to understand what has taken place.</p>	<p>April 20  <b>Read Luke 24: 48</b>                      Jesus' final words are that the disciples are now witnesses, able to testify to the truth. What are the things that you are a witness of?</p>	<p>April 21  <b>Read Acts 4: 1-2</b>                      The Sadducees are upset with the teaching of the disciples, who are drawing attention with their healing miracles and testimony.</p>
<p>April 22  <b>Read Acts 4: 3-4</b>                      The Sadducees had the power to arrest the disciples, but not to erase their testimony from the minds and hearts of those who believed.</p>	<p>April 23  <b>Read Acts 4: 5-7</b>                      The participants in the trial had authority based on family and position, and they challenge the disciples as to their own authority to teach.</p>	<p>April 24  <b>Read Acts 4: 8-10</b>                      Peter points out a problem—why are they on trial for healing a man who couldn't walk? For that story, see Acts 3:1-11.</p>
<p>April 25  <b>Read Acts 4: 11-12</b>                      The claims that Peter makes are big—Jesus, the man they rejected as a blasphemer, is the only way to salvation, not the law.</p>	<p>April 26  <b>Read Acts 4: 13</b>                      It's not just the content of Peter's testimony that is surprising, it is the confidence and authority with which these ordinary men spoke.</p>	<p>April 27  <b>Read Acts 4: 14</b>                      Whatever their feelings were, no one could argue over the fact that the lame man had been healed. Their actions could not be debated.</p>
<p>April 28  <b>Read 1 John 4: 7-8</b>                      If there is one message from 1 John to take to heart it is that God is love, and those who follow God are called to love as God loves us.</p>	<p>April 29  <b>Read 1 John 4: 9-10</b>                      God points to the fact that Jesus came not as a response to an act on our part, but as the initiation of grace as proof that God loves us.</p>	<p>April 30  <b>Read 1 John 4: 11-13</b>                      We are called to love in response to God's act of love in Christ, being confident that as we do, God is in us by the power of his Spirit.</p>
<p><b>May 1</b>                      Read 1 John 4: 14-16                      John wants to reassure the reader that all that has been said is true, and we can have confidence that acting on these teachings is right to do.</p>	<p><b>May 2</b>                      Read 1 John 4: 17-18                      The love that we have in God should make us confident in this life and the next—since God loves us, we need not fear his anger or punishment.</p>	