

The CHIMES

Pastor's Thoughts



Easter is one of the most joyful and meaningful days of the year for us. We gather in worship and fellowship to celebrate the

resurrection of Jesus, sing songs of victory, and rejoice in the hope that death has been defeated. But once the lilies fade and the calendar moves on, an important question remains: *What does the resurrection mean for us on ordinary days?*

The truth is, the resurrection was never meant to be a one-day celebration. That's why we have a season of Eastertide, lasting from Easter Sunday until Pentecost. Furthermore, every Sunday is supposed to be a remembrance and celebration of the resurrection, a "mini-Easter". Finally, every day is an opportunity to live as those transformed by grace—allowing renewal and reconciliation to shape our thoughts, actions, relationships, and purpose every single day.

At its heart, the resurrection is about new life. Through Jesus' victory over the grave, we are reminded that God specializes in renewal. Broken things can be restored. Hopeless situations can be

redeemed. Wounded hearts can be healed. When we live the resurrection daily, we begin to see our lives through that lens—not defined by what has been lost, but by what God is continually making new. What opportunities surround us to repair what is broken? To proclaim that the present circumstances we face are not a permanent state of being, and that grace and peace and hope are our ultimate future?

Choosing to live in hope is one of the biggest challenges in being part of God's resurrection people. Life doesn't suddenly become easy after Easter. Challenges, grief, and uncertainty still come. Yet the resurrection assures us that darkness does not have the final word. Each time we choose faith over fear, trust over anxiety, or perseverance over despair, we are living out the reality of the empty tomb, proclaiming that love wins over fear, that hope wins over despair, that peace wins over violence.

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection were all expressions of sacrificial love. When we love as he did, we show that his actions were not an aberration to be noted, but an example that we are called to

emulate. When we extend grace, forgive someone who has wronged us, serve those in need, or simply show kindness in a harsh world, we show the image of Christ in us. These moments may seem small, but they are powerful testimonies of God's life at work within us and his presence among us.

Living the resurrection daily also calls us to leave behind what no longer brings life. Just as the stone was rolled away from the tomb, we are invited to let go of old habits, lingering bitterness, or anything that keeps us spiritually stuck. This isn't about perfection—it's about movement. Step by step, following the Spirit's guidance as we are led into freedom and growth.

As we move through April and beyond, let's carry the message of Easter into our everyday lives. Let it shape how we speak, how we respond to challenges, and how we see others. The resurrection is not just an event we remember—it is a reality we live.

So this month, take a moment each day to ask: *Where is God bringing new life in me today?* You may find that the miracle of Easter is closer—and more active—than you ever imagined.

Thank You to All Who Made Lenten Studies Happen!

Our Lenten Studies this year were a great success, with an average of 32 attendees each week. Our study, 24 Hours That Changed The Word, was well-received and we enjoyed a lot of wonderful soup, bread, and desserts together. Thank you to all of our soup makers: Terry Twardzik, Barbara Musgrave, Carolyn Teal, Marsha Corton, Sue D'Imperio, Joyce McMaster, Marylynn Yust, Nancy Cox, Ronnie Dayton, Evelyn Moon, Chris Cox, and Sue Clark. Also, our bread and dessert suppliers: Vicki Cather, Lorraine Burns, Monia Yust, Penny Slechta, Judy Irvine, Inez Rose, Marsha Corton, Marylynn Yust, Glea Hale, Patty Darcy, Terry Twardzik, and Clem Rosenberger. Finally, a huge Thank You to Terry Twardzik, who led kitchen tasks and organized volunteers to ensure everyone had something to eat!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

We will be taking up an offering on April 5th, Easter Sunday, for One

Great Hour of Sharing. This offering supports work done in support of disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees, providing people with safety, sustenance, and hope. For over 75 years, Presbyterians have connected with each other and partners all over the world to support those in need through this offering.

Also in April - Preparing for Mothers' 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 19th 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.

Yard Sale!

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 their homes, organizing everything to group like items together, being present the day of the sale to help people find and purchase items to take home, and taking our leftover items to the Eagles and resetting the sanctuary! It was a phenomenal effort, but we sold most of the items that were donated and raised over \$875 to go towards the Children's Backpack Program, which sends food kits home with children in local schools who may not have meals to eat over the weekend. Thank you to all the many volunteers who participated. A special thank you to Marsh Corton for organizing, Marylynn Yust for heading up the back sale, Terry Twardzik for keeping volunteers fed on Saturday and Jack Dayton for helping clean and re-set the sanctuary!



Word from the Herd

Please keep the family of Joan Polley, a longtime friend of the church in prayer, as she passed away in Mid-March. Blair and Lorraine Burns have already gone North to attend her memorial service.

Another Day, Another Scam

In March, a scam email went out to the congregation. The emails claimed to be from Pastor Debra and asked congregation members to help with a “discrete task”. If someone responded, they were asked to purchase \$600 in gift cards and send the numbers from the back in an email.

While this scam was familiar enough with many to raise a bunch of red flags and prompt confirmation calls, there are many scams that sneak by at first and look reasonable or convincing. Because we know that this scammer has obtained our church directory, and has access to all our email addresses, addresses, and phone numbers, we may see a new wave of scams headed our way.

Here’s some advice on what to keep an eye out for to protect yourself from email scammers:

- Beware of Urgent or Odd Timing – many scam emails use urgency to override your natural suspicions or thoughtful consideration. If an email alert or request is marked “urgent” or threatens that a service will be shut off, police contacted, or account go to collections, you should absolutely pause before clicking or responding. Similarly, as in our recent scam email, if you are asked to act on behalf of someone who is too busy or not able to act for themselves, be suspicious. If someone had the time to send you an email, or even to quickly reply to a response you send, they could likely call and speak with you directly or handle the matter themselves.
- Always check the email address or link – the recent scam had a major flaw – the email address sending out the request was clearly not one associated with the church. However, scam artists can be very crafty about making an internet link or email address LOOK good at first glance. The church’s email address ends in @palmbaypres.org – if you see any variant, like @palmbaypres.com, @pa1mbaypres.org, or @palmbaypres.fl.org – be suspicious.
- Question out of character text or different signature blocks. The recent scam email pretended to be Pastor Debra, but the signature block was wrong. It didn’t have the church address and phone number in it, and more importantly, didn’t include the following statement: ** I will NEVER solicit funds, gift cards, or other financial assistance over email. Please call me if you ever receive such a request in my name.*** If someone sounds “off,” using phrases or a style that doesn’t sound right, be wary! Scammers are getting better and better at this, but it is very hard to imitate someone you don’t know.
- Beware of someone looking for your information. If a company is calling or emailing you, they know who you are. It’s call centers and scammers who reach out indiscriminately, and are able to make it look like they are calling from the real place. If someone asks you for your contact information, login information, password, or access code, it’s likely a scam. End contact, reach out to the company using a phone number or website YOU have looked up and verified, and start the conversation anew. A legitimate alert or issue will be known by the real company, and they won’t mind that you called back to ensure your accounts stayed safe.
- Don’t be afraid to double-check – Scammers rely on you responding to a text or email rather than independently reaching out. If you get an email that’s asking you to do something, whether it’s send information, click on a link, or call a phone number, don’t use the one they provide. Check your contacts or phone book, open a new email, or google a company’s real webpage. The less you communicate with a scammer, the less opportunity they have to convince you they’re real, or to plant spyware on your device. Remember, lying is their full-time job, and creating a fake website, phone number, or email address is easy for them. Their links may look real, but it’s a way to trick you into revealing your personal information and passwords.



Sunday School Class

The Sunday School class, under the leadership of Chris Cox, has started their study of the Old Testament books of 1 and 2 Kings. These books cover the transition of reign between King David and King Solomon and subsequent rulers as the nation divides. Some kings keep covenant with God and lead their people with righteousness, and other lead the people astray. Throughout it all, God offers blessings and holds his people accountable for their disobedience.

In April, the class will meet ONLY on the 19th and 26th of the month at 8:45 a.m. in the CE Building Library. All are welcome to join!

Wednesday in the Word Bible Study Resumes April 8th.

The Wednesday Bible Study took a pause during the Lenten season for our book study on 24 Hours that Changed the World. After Easter, the regular study will resume on Wednesday, April 8th, meeting in the CE library each Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. We will discuss the Resurrection Chapter of our Lenten study, and then continue to work our way through the Gospel of Luke, getting into Jesus' ministry as told from the perspective of a gentile who is excited to share the good news of salvation with all people. Bring a lunch or snack, your questions and curiosity, and be prepared to explore what the Bible teaches us, not only about history, but about our lives and service today!



Clyde & Marylynn Yust

April 10

Lorraine & Blair Burns

April 11

Vincent & Sue D'Imperio

April 19

Robert & Linda Riggelman

April 23

Art & Judy Irvine

April 30

Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon for April will be held Thursday, April 30th at The Shack, 4845 Dixie Hwy NE, Palm Bay. Please contact Marsha Corton at macarter1950@yahoo.com for more information. Last day to sign up will be April 26th.

Thank You to Those Who Blessed Us in Worship in March

Elder of Month: **Sue D'Imperio, Clyde Yust**

Ushers: **Jack & Ronnie Dayton, Mike Nardelli, Karola DeLuca Marsha Corton, Evelyn Cox, Ron Niemeyer, Linda & Robert Riggelman**

Flowers Donated By: **Brian Young & Carolyn Teal, Mike Nardelli, Layda Duda, Cindi Cundari, Anna Wood**



Marlin Fausey

April 2

Robert Riggelman

April 3

Layda Duda

April 6

Patti Loyd

April 11

Winston Melbourne

April 12

Robert Ritter

April 12

Judy Quirico

April 15

Monia Yust

April 19

John Yust

April 21

Evelyn Moon

April 27



Session Summary

The session met on March 17th in the Library of the CE building. Matters discussed included the following:

- Session confirmed an email vote to hold a yard sale on Saturday, March 28th from 9:00am to 2:00pm, with the proceeds going to the Backpack program.
- Session approved having a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 12th to discuss the future of the CE / Office building.
- Session approved updates to the Building Usage Policy for groups who regularly use the building.
- Session approved updates to the Guidelines on Disruptive Behavior policy.
- Treasurer's Report (through February 2026): The month's actual expenses are high due to paying the entire yearly insurance premium in full to avoid the 19% interest charge.
 - Average Monthly Expenses: \$17,222.32
 - Actual Expenses in February: \$35,060.66
 - Contributions in February: \$11,678.86
 - Income year-to-date: \$49,969.05
 - Expenses year-to-date: \$46,906.58
 - Surplus year-to-date: \$3,062.48

EASTER LILY DONATIONS

Judy Rutter

In memory of Loved Ones

Vicki & Mark Cather

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

Anna Wood

In memory of John Wood, Adian & Betty Oskam

Sue & Vince D'Imperio

In memory of Mary D'Imperio and Joann Warwick

Judy Irvine

In honor of friends at First Presbyterian Church

Inez Rose

In honor of our Risen Lord and for Church & Family

Cindi & Frank Cundari

In memory of their mothers.

Evelyn Moon

In honor of the friendly congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay

Bill & Joyce McMaster

In memory of their parents

Jack & Ronnie Dayton

In memory of loved ones that have passed

Kent & Layda Duda

In memory of our parents

Ric & Heidi Edwards

In memory of our loved ones

Ron & Georgia Shane

In memory of loved ones

Chris, Debra & Evelyn Cox

In honor of our Risen Lord

A Jelly Bean Prayer

RED is for the blood He gave

GREEN is for the grass He made

YELLOW is for the sun so bright

ORANGE is for the edge of night

BLACK is for the sins we made

WHITE is for the grace He gave

PURPLE for His hours of sorrow

PINK is for our new tomorrow

APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 10:00 am WORSHIP EASTER SUNDAY ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING	6 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	7 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	8 12 p.m. BIBLE STUDY 5:00 pm ADMIN MEETING	9 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	10 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	11 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA
12 10:00 am WORSHIP CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	13 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	14 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	15 12 p.m. BIBLE STUDY	16 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	17 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	18 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA
19 8:45 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am WORSHIP WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING DEACON'S MEETING	20 CHIMES DEADLINE 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	21 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS 7:00 pm SESSION MEETING	22 12 p.m. BIBLE STUDY	23 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	24 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA	25 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA
26 8:45 am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am WORSHIP 5 CENTS A MEAL	27 12:00 noon AA 6:00 pm AA—LADIES ONLY	28 6:00 pm CUB SCOUTS 7:00 pm BOY SCOUTS	29 12 p.m. BIBLE STUDY	30 11:30 am SENIOR LUNCHEON 5:30 pm PLATINUM SHOW CHORUS 6:15 pm NA		



IN THE WORD

Daily Devotion

March 29th through April 4th:

Read Philippians 2:5-11

Holy week is full of scripture readings and stories—chapters upon chapters of Gospel texts that capture Jesus' last week in Jerusalem, his final moments with his disciples, his trial, crucifixion, and entombment. Pick your favorite gospel and try to follow along with the story of Jesus this week, but also keep this Philippians passage in mind to consider the purpose and character with which Jesus approached all the moments of his final week, and consider the ways you can follow his example, even if you don't follow his exact footsteps.

- **March 29:** Why did Jesus never rely on his divine nature in order to claim authority? How might that have changed his ministry?
- **March 30:** Jesus didn't just take on a human appearance, he was fully human. What is hardest about this? How does connection make tasks easier and harder?
- **March 31:** Jesus didn't ever look for honor for himself, in fact, he sought out the rejected and embraced being betrayed and condemned. When is it easy to put pride aside for a greater goal? Why is that hard at other times?
- **April 1:** God said he was pleased with Jesus at his baptism. How much more has Jesus been honored because of his sacrifice? What actions add to the respect we have for others? What actions take away from it?
- **April 2:** What is it about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection that leads people to respond to him with honor and praise? Why do you? What is it that God has done for you for which you are most grateful?
- **April 3:** Why is it important that everyone know and believe in Jesus Christ? Why should every tongue confess him? If you could share only one thing about why Jesus should be praised, what would it be?
- **April 4:** Jesus' life, death, and resurrection tells us something about the Triune God—what is it? What is the central characteristic of the God we follow? How do we see that embodied in the three persons of the trinity?

April 5th through April 11th

Read Matthew 28:1-10 and Acts 10:34-43

Matthew's account of the resurrection of Jesus is a very powerful one: earthquakes, an angel with a shining appearance, terrified people all around—all of these are hallmarks of the Divine presence, and that's just the messenger! Peter's sermon in Acts 10 is also full of a sense of the divine power as he speaks of God's plan for the nations to be saved in Jesus Christ. That plan was only beginning with Jesus' resurrection and, and is now spreading into the entire world and affects the living and the dead, powered by the Holy Spirit. Easter Sunday is not the end of the story, it's the beginning of this amazing work that God is doing in the world, that includes all of us!

- **April 5:** He is risen! In Matthew's account, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were present to see the tomb opened by the angel. How did they react?
- **April 6:** Matthew keeps the story on the move, as the angel sends the women to the disciples, and the disciples to Galilee. Why do you think this is something he emphasized in telling the resurrection story?
- **April 7:** The angels and Jesus keep telling his followers not to be afraid. Why is that message still important for those who follow Jesus today?
- **April 8:** In Acts 10, Peter preaches that God shows no partiality. What does he mean by this? How does the church reflect this attribute of God? Where might we need to do better?
- **April 9:** Why do you think Peter emphasizes that Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit?
- **April 10:** Peter calls himself and the other disciples "witnesses" and says that their primary task is to preach and testify. Do you consider yourself to be a witness? What is your testimony about Jesus?
- **April 11:** Notice that Peter speaks about Jesus's life, ministry, death, and purpose as the primary point of his testimony, relegating the forgiveness of sins to the very end, almost an afterthought. Why do you think he did not emphasize that aspect of Jesus' ministry more?

First Presbyterian Church of Palm Bay Daily Devotion

April 12th through April 18th: Read John 20:19-31

The truth about Jesus' resurrection is a joy to all those who hear it now, but we have an advantage over Jesus' original disciples—we know how the story ends. For the first followers of Jesus, his death was real, and in their minds, final. Their grief, fear, and doubt were reasonable and strong emotions. Eyewitness testimony seemed too good to be true. At the end of the day, it was Jesus' presence that was needed for all of the disciples, not just Thomas, to believe that the resurrection was real. Consider why you might resist the Good News offered to us in Christ, and what it takes to break through our doubts even now.

- **April 12:** Why were the disciples afraid? What danger were they now that Jesus was dead?
- **April 13:** Why did the disciples stay together after Jesus' crucifixion? Why not run far away?
- **April 14:** What emotions do you think the disciples felt at seeing Jesus again? Do you think any of them had trouble believing their own eyes?
- **April 15:** Thomas wasn't present to see Jesus. What explanation might he have for what everyone saw?
- **April 16:** Why was it important for Thomas to see with his own eyes before he would believe?
- **April 17:** Jesus isn't angry with Thomas for his doubt, but appears and offers to let him touch his wounds. Why respond like this?
- **April 18:** Why is it better to believe even without seeing? Why is that a blessing?

April 19nd through April 25th: Read Luke 24:13-35

The Walk to Emmaus story has inspired believers for millennia. It is easy to picture one's self as the men walking down the road, talking about everything that happened, and wondering what they would do now, only to be unexpectedly met, encouraged, inspired, and empowered by Jesus. This week, as you read the story again, consider the progression of their journey as they re-assessed the information and experiences they had up to this point in the light of Jesus' instruction and revelation of his resurrection. How are they the same, and how are they different by the end?

- **April 19:** It's clear that the events around Jesus' death were widely talked about—what do you think people were saying?
- **April 20:** The disciples didn't recognize Jesus. What might you accidentally say to Jesus if you didn't know it was him?
- **April 21:** Notice the past tense "we had hoped he would be the one" - what does this imply?
- **April 22:** The men had heard the report of the women and other disciples about the empty tomb. Why are they still leaving?
- **April 23:** Why does Jesus start teaching them about Moses and the prophets?
- **April 24:** Even after hearing Jesus' explanation, they are still walking away. What event finally gets through to them?
- **April 25:** The men leave to return at the hour when everyone is getting off the road. Why?

April 26th through May 2nd: Read Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 and John 10:1-10

This passages for this week complement one another by sharing two different perspectives on what it means to be in the care of a loving God. Jesus' description of what it means to be the Good Shepherd and what he is willing to do for his people illustrate why it is someone would praise him and seek to respond the way the Psalmist does in 116. This week, consider the relationship between faithfulness, trust, gratitude, and determination. When we are on the same page with God, we are able to do a lot together. When we mistrust his faithfulness, our decisions can hamper the plans God has for us.

- **April 26:** How does the shepherd know who belongs in the sheepfold and who doesn't? Why is the proper entrance necessary to stay?
- **April 27:** Sheep truly know the voice of their shepherd over all others. What inspiration can we take from this instinct?
- **April 28:** What is Jesus' purpose as he describes it in verse 10? What does that mean to you?
- **April 29:** The psalmist gives their reason for loving the Lord in verses 1 and 2. Do you think this is the only reason they love the Lord? Why?
- **April 30:** In verse 12, the psalmist begins to consider what they will do in response to the Lord. Why is this important in our faith?
- **May 1:** Why is it important to the psalmist to publicly praise the Lord?
- **May 2:** Why does the psalmist mix together identity statements (i.e. "I am your servant") with plans for thanksgiving? What is their relationship to one another?