

The Proclaimer

April, 2018

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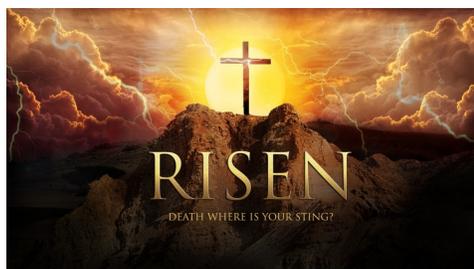
Dear Friends,

It has been a most meaningful time for me to journey with you from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week during this Lenten season. For those of us who have gathered on Wednesday evenings we have focused on the theme of forgiveness, both the forgiveness we received from our Lord and the forgiveness we give others as we walk together in faith. Thank you for the privilege of being on this journey with you. I look forward to celebrating the resurrection with you on Easter Sunday!

You have elected your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) who will work on your behalf to find your next installed pastor. I am confident God has already chosen your next pastor and the Holy Spirit is working in that person's life to prepare him/her for the call to serve in Morristown. Your PNC is Bill Hale, Sally Morrison, Sharon McAnear, John Simpson, and Terri Tilson. We are in the process of setting a time for the PNC to meet with Rich Fifield, Holston Presbytery's Executive Presbyter. Rev. Fifield will review the process with the PNC and get them started on their work.

One of the first tasks for the PNC is to carry out a Mission Study. Their work in this step is to determine the congregation's strengths, views, vision, and core values. This Mission Study becomes the foundation for the Ministry Information Form (MIF), which the PNC prepares. The MIF will be approved by the FPC-M Session and by the Holston Presbytery Committee on Ministry. Once the MIF is approved, it will be submitted to the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection for online matching with pastoral candidates. The PNC will keep us informed of their work along the way. Please keep your PNC in your prayers as they carry out this important work.

Blessings,
Merri



W.W.J.D.



1 John 2:6 says "Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did." Ok, so I totally love to wear sandals and walk in sand(i.e., – the beach). And I'm growing my hair long. Does that count? Well, no, to be brutally honest with myself.

We just celebrated Easter. What really happened? Yes, Jesus willingly was crucified, died, was buried, and on the third day arose from the grave. But I mean deeper than the physical. This physical world is temporary.

What really happened?

Romans 5:10 says "For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!" While we were His enemies, Jesus died for us. What kind of person would sacrifice their life for their enemy? Sacrifice His life so he can save His enemies. And bless His enemies with eternal life. So His enemies can live with Him in heaven forever? Really?!? How foolish is that?

1 Corinthians 1:18 says that "the word of the cross is foolishness to those who don't believe." What really happened was that for no reason other than love – no sense of selfishness or fairness – for no reason other than love, Jesus died perhaps the harshest and most horrific death in history. For you.

So what does 1 John 2:6 mean for us? That we sacrifice our life on a cross for people who hate us? Well, maybe it does. For some that has been or will be reality. But maybe not for everybody. Maybe it means something that is in reality much easier, but in practice feels so much harder. Maybe it means we give food to someone who stole our wallet. Maybe it means that when it's freezing cold outside we sacrifice our comfort and spend the whole night helping in a shelter. Maybe more than one night. Maybe it means that we sacrifice our entire vacation to fund a mission trip to free human captives. Maybe it means we sacrifice our peaceful household and free lifestyle to give an abused child a safe place to stay for a few years. Or many years. Maybe it means we sacrifice our free time and go to prison to love the guy who stole our car. Or worse.

There was nothing that Jesus wouldn't sacrifice for you, and if you are going to claim to live in Him – if you are going to claim to be a Christian - then there can be nothing that you wouldn't sacrifice for Him. It's simple really. In any situation, large or small, ask what Jesus would do, and then do it. What would Jesus do? What will you do?

Rick Kopituk

Living Cross

On Easter Sunday, April 1, we turn the old rugged cross into a **Living Cross**. Bring flowers or greenery from your yard to place on the cross. This bud, flower or greenery, will represent the new life we experience in Christ as we turn the rugged cross into a beautiful floral living cross on Easter morning. After having the barren cross displayed, it is transformed into a glorious living cross on Easter with your contributions of new life offered to us by God in the season of Spring.



Easter Egg Hunt

The CE committee is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 1st. Children need to meet in the chapel at 9am for a short devotion about Easter. Hunt will begin at 9:30 and be done in time for the single service we will be having at 10:30am. As we get closer to time we will decide whether it will be indoors or outside. We will supply plastic eggs filled with religious themed treats (and maybe a bit of candy also). Please bring your children, grand-children and friends. Make sure they have their baskets. We will not have a sit-down meal but the amazin' grazin' table will be extra full with "Easter" goodies. We will keep updating information over the next couple of weeks.

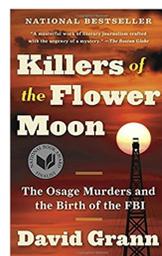


PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN APRIL MEETING

On Thursday, April 5th at 10:30am in the Ladies' Parlor, Sally Morrison will lead the Presbyterian Women's next Bible study. The topic will be *Who is Jesus According to Other Abrahamic Faiths*. All ladies are encouraged to attend the study, as well as the \$7 catered lunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall.



Presbyterian Women's Book Club



The Presbyterian Women's Book Club will meet Friday, April 20th at the home of JoAnne Simpson at 5:30pm (earlier than usual). We will be discussing the New York Times Bestseller, *Killers of the Flower Moon*. A True story of the Osage Murders and the birth of the FBI. The author is David Grann. Bring your book and a snack to share.



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Carol Reams	6
Sarah Massa	6

Regina Christian Martin	8
Emily Medford	9
Don Rogers	9
Leona Tilson	9
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Cook Out

for all FPC adults

Tuesday, May 8

11:30am on the Church Patio

Hot Dogs on the Grill with all the fixin's

Call the church office to make your reservations
(no charge)

(Sponsored by the Congregational Care Committee)