



# 2024 MARCH FIRST FOCUS

*Holy Week Edition*

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|  <p><b>PALM SUNDAY</b><br/><i>Hosanna!</i></p> <p><b>MARCH 24</b><br/>8:30am &amp; 11am<br/>Services</p> |  <p><b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b><br/><i>Love Poured Out</i></p> <p><b>MARCH 28</b><br/>5:15pm Dinner<br/><i>(RSVP Online)</i><br/>6pm Service</p> |  <p><b>GOOD FRIDAY</b><br/><i>He Paid it all</i></p> <p><b>MARCH 29</b><br/>12pm Ecumenical<br/>Service</p> |
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## INVITE SOMEONE TO EASTER

*"...but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).*

The most important piece of information you could ever share with another individual is that Jesus paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross and that he overcame death by resurrecting on the third day. Easter provides an opportunity to refocus on the most important part of our faith. We encourage you to invite someone to church either on Easter or to any of our other Holy Week Services. We also have a NEW opportunity for worship on Good Friday, with our first time hosting a Ecumenical Service. Pastors from various denominations within our community will come together to offer a very special and unique worship experience. **Who are you inviting to church?**



**HE IS  
RISEN**

**6:30AM SUNRISE**  
**8:30AM & 11AM**

**EASTER SERVICES**



*Easter*

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
FUNDRAISER** 

**FOR OUR 2024 MISSION TRIP**  
8-11AM COME SUPPORT OUR YOUTH  
PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, FRUIT, COFFEE & ORANGE JUICE

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**



*Children's*

**Easter  
Egg Hunt**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31**  
**AT 10:30AM**

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

Our Youth Group will hold a Pancake Breakfast Mission Trip Fundraiser on Easter Sunday, 8-11am! Please plan to join us and support our students. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 10:30am on Easter Sunday! All children 5th grade and under are invited to participate! Again this year, we will hold three Easter Services. Our Sunrise Service will be held outside this year (weather permitting) at the Memorial Garden. **Who are you inviting to church?**



## MARCH 16 | UFO SATURDAY SOCIAL

Sometimes we start projects but we don't finish them. You know those UnFinished Objects that sit around reminding us to complete them? The Knit-Crochet Ministry invites you on Saturday, March 16, (9am-noon) to a UFO social where you can work on any craft project you want! We'll provide drinks and snacks - you provide the project of your choice. Contact Becky Mentzer with any questions.

## MARCH 16 | BLESSINGS WOMEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT

Piece by Piece: Finding God's Story in Our Stories

Blessings Women's Ministry invites all women of all ages to attend their annual day retreat, on Saturday, March 16, 12:30pm - 3pm. Our speaker will be the Rev. Sarah Tunall, a local PC(USA) minister and foster mother of five children who currently ministers through full-time substitute teaching and pulpit supply. We will serve a lunch consisting of chicken salad, rolls, cookies, and lemonade/water. The cost for the meal and speaker will be \$25.00 per person, payable at the start of the event by cash or check made out to FPC, memo Blessings. Please sign up online by March 13.



## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASS OPPORTUNITIES

*get plugged in!*

## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP: SUNDAYS, 9:45-10:45AM

- Theology of Romans with Pastor Matt continues through Lent
- Mortality with Pastor Chris on March 24
- New Offerings Coming in April:
  - Marriage Matters
  - Nooma Video Series by Rob Bell

# TRIVIA NIGHT

MARCH 17TH | 6:00 PM

**YOUTH GROUP & JOY GROUP**

Teams will compete to answer pop culture questions. Snacks will be provided, and the winning team will earn prizes! Adult participants can sign up online and students can contact Kelli to RSVP!

 This list is available on our website [firstpresnormal.org](http://firstpresnormal.org)

## THE SALVATION ARMY MARCH CARE & SHARE

Donations can be dropped off M-F, during office hours or on Sunday mornings inside the shopping carts available at the entrances.

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| <h3>HYGIENE NEEDS:</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deodorant (men's &amp; women's)</li> <li>• Razors (men's &amp; women's)</li> <li>• Travel size hygiene products</li> <li>• Full size body wash</li> <li>• Shaving Cream</li> <li>• Hand and Body Lotion</li> </ul> | <h3>DONATION DROP OFF</h3> <p><i>Donations can be dropped off to the church during the week or on Sunday mornings. Please place items in the grocery carts available at both the Hershey and College Avenue entrances.</i></p> |
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The Green Team, in conjunction with Kids of the Kingdom, Playmates, and Pass Kids, invites you to be part of our upcoming Story Stroll. We will have laminated pages of the book "We Planted a Tree" mounted to signs around the church grounds for people of all ages to read about and explore God's creation. The Kick-off with Kids of the Kingdom and Youth Groups will be Sunday, April 7th, at 6pm, where we will stroll the church grounds while reading the story, talk about trees, flowers, bugs, and birds, and have crafts and snacks. In addition to the kickoff event, the Story Stroll will be up for the week of April 21st for Playmates (on Earth Day and Arbor Day) and Pass Kids. All are welcome to enjoy, so bring your children or grandchildren to check it out.



We want to say a tremendous THANK YOU to Barb Lemmon for serving as our Financial Coordinator for the last several years! Barb will be resigning from this position within the coming months. She is looking forward to being retired again and, while she will be missed in her staff role, we are happy to celebrate her excellent service to the church. We will still see Barb all around the church, including in the choir loft! The personnel committee and Pastor Matt are working to find the next Financial Coordinator.

We are looking for someone interested in a part-time position who has strong bookkeeping and accounting skills. If you have any references, please contact Pastor Matt or Steve Yahnig. Thank you!

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

| FIRST    | LAST       | BDAY  | FIRST    | LAST      | BDAY   | FIRST   | LAST        | BDAY   |
|----------|------------|-------|----------|-----------|--------|---------|-------------|--------|
| Maddox   | Pate       | Mar 1 | Barb     | Lemmon    | Mar 8  | Karen   | Esch        | Mar 19 |
| Kristin  | Swearingen | Mar 2 | Margaret | Merritt   | Mar 10 | Will    | Hancock     | Mar 20 |
| Chelsey  | Smith      | Mar 3 | Rachel   | Sabick    | Mar 10 | Doreen  | Horney      | Mar 20 |
| Faye     | Bartley    | Mar 3 | Bonnie   | Coffer    | Mar 12 | Ryan    | McAllister  | Mar 20 |
| Sophia   | Bailey     | Mar 4 | Natalie  | Hobbs     | Mar 12 | Diane   | Christensen | Mar 23 |
| Sandra   | Stowers    | Mar 4 | John     | Ten Haken | Mar 12 | Gary    | Beck        | Mar 25 |
| Jerry    | Parsons    | Mar 5 | David    | Terrinoni | Mar 17 | Cindy   | Wilson      | Mar 27 |
| Gigi     | Miles      | Mar 5 | Byron    | Blair     | Mar 18 | Jessica | Briggs      | Mar 27 |
| Nathan   | Brent      | Mar 6 | Lea      | Spinks    | Mar 18 | Bob     | Beerup      | Mar 27 |
| Helenann | Gray       | Mar 6 | Kim      | Toulon    | Mar 19 | Heidi   | Hancock     | Mar 28 |
| Erin     | Stombaugh  | Mar 6 | Andy     | Cooney    | Mar 19 | Donald  | Bailey      | Mar 29 |
| Sharon   | Cunningham | Mar 6 | Erica    | Young     | Mar 19 | Cale    | Hinthorn    | Mar 31 |

If you would like to be added or removed from this list, please contact the church office at (309) 452-4459 or [alunt@firstpresnormal.org](mailto:alunt@firstpresnormal.org).