

April — June, 2018



THE MESSENGER

Dear Friends,

We often forget that Easter is not only a day in the church year, but is a season as well, a season in which we remember and focus upon the resurrection of our Lord, and what that means for us and for the world.

But what, exactly does it mean?

To be honest, I'm not sure we always "get" Easter. Perhaps we get bogged down in Easter baskets and bunnies and colored eggs, and somewhere in the middle of all that we know that there is something more, something deeper, and more real, and more powerful than all of this. But what, truly, are we speaking of here?

Well, simply put, the message of Easter is this: Christ has risen. Christ was dead, he was buried, but the tomb could not hold him, and because of him the tomb cannot hold us either. It cannot hold us when we die, but note this as well: it cannot hold us now.

This indeed is what Jesus promised before he died, a promise that seemed at the time totally incredible, a matter, at best, of metaphor, and hyperbole, but which, because of the first Easter morning, we now know to be true.

I want you to think about this: What if, on that first Easter morning, when that stone was rolled away from the tomb, it wasn't just to let Jesus out? After all, God could have brought Jesus out of that tomb any way God wanted to. What if instead that stone was rolled away from the tomb to let us in, to let us see in there like those first disciples so that we, like them, might know that the tomb is empty, and that death is not the end — but rather a new beginning.

A beginning that proclaims the victory of life over death. A beginning that allows us to turn our backs on the grave and set our faces toward a future with faith and hope, joy and love. A beginning that allows us to even now in this place to live lives that have been resurrected by the power of God.

That is the truth of this day and this season: The tomb is empty. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

Yours in Christ,

John Pruitt

CHURCH INFORMATION

First Presbyterian Church
611 Oakhurst Street
Kernersville, NC 27284

Office: (336) 993-7358
Fax: (336) 993-5526
www.fpckernersville.org

Rev. John Pruitt
Minister

Mrs. Amy Evans
Director of Christian Education

Ms. Jane Johnson
Church Secretary

Services:

The Gathering — 6:00 p.m.
(2nd Wednesday each month)

Café Faith — 9:00 a.m.
(Sundays September — May)

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.



Birthdays

April

- 1 Eileen MacHardy
- 2 Kitty Thach
- 13 Nancy Bolen

May

- 12 Dee Barham

June

- 2 Hsuan Sudderth
- 6 Millie Vernon
- 12 Betsey Kelly
- 15 Kathie Boglovits
- 15 Ruth Kerr
- 17 Nancy Sharp
- 17 Shirley Smith
- 22 Norma Stikeleather

If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office. Thank you.

Anniversaries

April

- 10 Bob & Donna Myers

May

- 10 Spencer & Nancy Sharp
- 19 James & Rosalie Nicholson

June

- 2 Chuck & Hsuan Sudderth
- 10 Dale & Ellen Watts
- 11 Rodgers & Joyce White

If your anniversary is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office. Thank you.

First Presbyterian Church Session Members

Class of 2018

Nancy Bolen
Bernie Krecklow

Class of 2019

Lorna Foster
Lynda Self

Class of 2020

Sam Henderson
Rich Tincher

Growing Together in Faith

Our focus as a church over the last month has been “Deep and Wide” and trying to grow our church, not only in numbers, “wide”, but in deepening our relationships with God, as well as each other. Having just finished up eggs, we worked with a lot of new faces from within our community, and we hopefully formed some relationships that we might be able to reach out to, to invite them to our services, either Sunday mornings or the monthly Gathering service. Not everyone will accept the invitation, but if we don’t do the inviting, no one will accept. It only

takes a small effort from each person to have a great impact.

In thinking about “deep and wide”, I thought of something really, really big. The Grand Canyon is one of God’s best examples of something “deep and wide”. But it was formed from the Colorado River. Not the deepest river, not the longest river, not even the best-known river (we think Mississippi, Amazon, Nile). But with God’s direction and guidance, look at what was accomplished. One of the best landmarks of the United States, visited by millions each year. If God could use this river to create this natural wonder, believe in what He can accomplish using each and every one of us, in some small way. With His strength we can grow our church, our relationship with Him, and advance His grace, mercy and love here on earth as it is in heaven.

With Christ’s Peace,

Amy Evans
Director of Christian Education

Worship Service Schedules

April 2018

Greeters/Ushers

1 *Comm* Norman Self
Lynda Self
8 Millie Vernon
Rich Tincher
15 Joy Lynn Budkey
Jim Ingram
22 Sam Henderson
Priscilla Henderson
29 Bernie Krecklow
Dale Watts

Lay Reader

1 *Comm* Dottie Roudabush
8 Dee Barham
15 Donna Myers
22 Kerry Kerr
29 Kitty Thach

Element Preparation

1 *Comm* Kay Sudderth
Priscilla Henderson

Assisting Elders

1 *Comm* Bob Myers
Nancy Sharp
Anne Waddell
Faye Hodges
Sam Henderson

May 2018

Greeters/Ushers

6 Lorna Foster
Faye Hodges
13 *Comm* Anne Waddell
Dale Watts
20 Millie Vernon
Rich Tincher
27 Sam Henderson
Priscilla Henderson

Lay Reader

6 Dee Barham
13 *Comm* Dottie Roudabush
20 Nancy Bolen
27 Kerry Kerr

Element Preparation

13 *Comm* Bernie Krecklow
Dottie Roudabush

Assisting Elders

13 *Comm* Sam Henderson
Priscilla Henderson
Rusty Sudderth
Bob Myers
Nancy Sharp

June 2018

Greeters/Ushers

3 Norman Self
Lynda Self
10 *Comm* Joy Lynn Budkey
Jim Ingram
17 Bernie Krecklow
Dale Watts
24 Lorna Foster
Faye Hodges

Lay Reader

3 Donna Myers
10 *Comm* Millie Vernon
17 Nancy Bolen
24 Kitty Thach

Element Preparation

10 *Comm* Norman Self
Lynda Self

Assisting Elders

10 *Comm* Nancy Bolen
Kerry Kerr
Rich Tincher
Faye Hodges
Ellen Watts