

First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek

6724 Buffalo Rd. Harborcreek, PA 16421

Telephone: (814) 899-1031 Email: Harborcreek.fpc2@aol.com Website: hcpresbyterian.org

February and March Volume 2021, Issue 2

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_	Church Leadership
Pas	torRobin Cuneo tor Emeritus
газ	Rev. Sheldon "Tim" Logan
Orga Sec Sex	sic Director
	Committee Chairs—2021 ck of SessionMary Ellen Flowers
Cler	k of SessionMary Ellen Flowers
Mer	nbership Care &
De	evelopmentBarb Griffith
	Ann Nesgoda
Miss	sion/OutreachAnn Nesgoda
N I	Sue Kellerman
Tr	ninating & ainingMary Ellen Flowers Barb Griffith
Pers	sonnelSue Kellerman Scott Shunk
Prop	pertyScott Shunk Bob Kellerman, Dave Maille
Spir	itual FormationJennifer Wedzik
Stev	wardship & FinanceDave Maille Bob Kellerman
Wor	shipChris Thomas Jared Mosier
Rec	ording Secretary Cindy Skladanowski
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Deacons

Deacons	<u> </u>
Chairperson	
Vice-Chairperson	
Secretary	Joanne Scott
Treasurer	Peggie Smith
Caring Tree	Nancy McNally
Correspondence	Joanne Scott
Flower Coordinator	Sally Wakeley
Funeral Dinners	Peggie Smith
	Sue Beighley
Greeters/Liturgists	Joanne Scott

Dear Ones.

Well, we are entering Lent 2021 the same way we left it with Easter 2020 apart. And yet. Even though we are physically apart we are closer than ever in many ways. And we are making the best of a difficult situation.



Just look how far our Internet worship services have come! What began with Jared Mosier's hand-held smart phone has grown to a sophisticated broadcast on Facebook and our Website. And those without Internet can hear a service by telephone. All of this was accomplished under Jared's watchful, talented eye, with major help from Jeremy Stewart and the volunteer "guys in the booth" each Sunday.

And Chris Thomas and Bill Nesgoda have made our virtual choir so appealing that a couple who recently moved here from Florida is in the process of joining the choir, and our church!

Thanks to Brian Griffith, who preached Jan. 31, for listing a bunch of our activities during this challenging year to show that the people, not the building, are the church. They include: two community steeple cases, two community boxes outside the main doors, parking lot church, a drive-through Swiss steak dinner, Zoom Sunday school and session meetings and full participation in Erie's Second Harvest Food Bank's backpack food program.

Events that continued despite Covid were: lunch taken to the Upper Room quarterly, Hands Across Harborcreek and the Christmas caring tree. Indeed, the members *are* the church.

One thing is for sure: Seeing each other in worship again will be all that much sweeter simply because we are closer in many ways – whenever that may be.

Oh. Yes. Lent.

continued next page...

Worship News

Facebook Worship Available Every Sunday

...continued from previous page

Once again this year we'll provide the daily Lenten devotionals from "Presbyterian Outlook." They're written by a new person, so thought we'd try them. They'll be sent via e-mail each week, and by snail mail for those without reliable Internet.

If you'd like to try something different, check out the Lenten offering from "Presbyterians Today" at: https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/lent2021. And if you're interested in something a little different, try out https://www.themanyarehere.info/lentanotherway.

May God bless you and keep you however you choose to observe our solitary Lent. Together and closer than ever.

Blessings,

Pastor Robin

NEW!! Audio recordings of worship services can be accessed any time of day Simply call the number 814-203-4173 and you can listen to a recording of that week's service/sermon.



Ways to Connect

There are several ways you can connect to live virtual worship and recordings.

<u>Live Facebook worship services</u> can be joined every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

- by going to Facebook @firstpresbyterianchurchofharborcreek;
- Or by going to our website at hcpresbyterian.org, scrolling down the home page and clicking on Facebook link to streaming worship service.

You can view <u>past worship services</u> by going to the website; hover mouse over "Worship & Music" tab and then click on Worship Service Videos.

Worship Liturgists

Sunday, February 28 Dave Maille

Sunday, March 1 Nancy Way

Sunday, March 14 Larry Hanes

Sunday, March 21 Eileen Kriner

Sunday, March 28 Nancy McNally

Lectionary Readings for February/ March 2021

Below are the readings suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary for this month.

Sunday, February 28 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7 Psalm 19 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38

Sunday, March 7 3rd Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 14
Numbers 21:4-9

4th Sunday in Lent
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 21

Jeremiah 31:31-34

5th Sunday in Lent
Psalm 25:1-10

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Sunday, March 28 Palm/Passion Sunday

 Palms: Matthew 21:1-11
 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

 Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16

 Philippians 2:5-11
 Mark 14:1-15:47

Pastor Robin will be working from home during the pandemic restrictions.

She can be reached directly by phone during her normal office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling **814-823-7765**. She is *always* available at that number or at 716-769-7394.

Pastor Robin preaches every Sunday except the last Sunday of each month.

Please note that Robin's new email address is: robindcuneo@gmail.com

Lent and Easter

What does Lent mean?

Starting on Ash Wednesday, these 40 days are set aside to praise and worship the Lord; to read the Bible more, and to pray more often. Christians who observe Lent correctly anticipate deeper intimacy with the Lord.

Lent is meant to be a time of repentance. That's not a <u>feeling of shame</u>, but an awareness that sin separates us from God and of what it cost Him to be reunited with us.

"Lent is [...] an opportunity to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the Cross."



Palm Sunday Sunday, March 28, 2021 Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday is the Christian holiday that occurs on the Sunday before Easter. This celebration commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, mentioned in each of the four Gospels. Jesus entered the city knowing He would be tried and crucified and welcomed His fate to rise from the grave and save us from sin! Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the remembrance of Jesus' last days to the cross.

Maundy/Holy Thursday—April 1, 2021 Worship: 7:30 p.m.

Christ's "mandate" is commemorated on Maundy Thursday---"maundy" being a shortened form of mandatum (Latin), which means "command." It was on the Thursday of Christ's final week before being crucified and resurrected that He said this commandment to His disciples. Jesus and his disciples had just shared what was known as the Last Supper and he was washing their feet when he stated:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34).

Good Friday—April 2, 2021 Worship: 7:30 p.m.

For Christians, Good Friday is a crucial day of the year because it celebrates what we believe to be the most momentous weekend in the history of the world. Ever since Jesus died and was raised, Christians have proclaimed the cross and resurrection of Jesus to be the decisive turning point for all creation. Paul considered it to be "of first importance" that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and was raised to life on the third day, all in accordance with what God had promised all along in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3).

Christianity.com



ATTENTION KIDS AND PARENTS!! NEW, FUN LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES!!

Starting in February, we are now going to have weekly kids lesson packages you can pick-up right outside our Church doors! Each week's package will include a short Bible Lesson, Craft, and Game or Challenge. You can also follow us weekly on our Facebook Sunday School Lesson (same discussion as in packet) instead of doing lesson yourself if you want. Please post your crafts and pics to that week's Facebook post! We would love to see all the pictures. Feel free to share Lesson packs with friends, family, and neighbors!

We will be using some of the lessons from Indescribable by Louie Giglio. Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens tell the glory of God. And the skies announce what his hands have made." We will be learning about. interacting with, and creating projects that have to with God's great creation. We will be talking about stars, dinosaurs, plants, and lots of God creation. God orchestrates time, creates light, and speaks things into existence-from the largest stars to the smallest starfish. God is the powerful, purposeful, personal, unparalleled Creator. We will be on a journey of fun and purpose - JOIN US THIS SPRING!

Youth - Special Way to Celebrate Lent! Lenten Countdown Calendar

Come and pick up your Lenten Countdown Calendar project in church OR email church office and we can send you a digital copy you can print yourself. Lots of good activities to engage you this year!



Mission News

Mission Updates

THANK YOU, THANK YOU YOU ALL ARE WONDERFUL

UPPER ROOM lunches were served on January 31. Due to covid-19, bag lunches were once again served. Ann and Bill Nesgoda packed the lunches this time. Big thanks to Barb and Brian Griffith for delivering them! Also, thanks to Sue Kellerman who packed the November bags and again, Barb and Brian who delivered them. Hopefully, we will be able to return soon to actually serving hot meals at the shelter. I know the folks there have missed nice, hot meals. We have also missed the interaction with them.

Your response to the Backpack Program has been amazing. To date we have collected \$3000 for this very important mission to the community. YOU are making the lives of families of our local students much easier in this very difficult time. Bless you all.

We may not be in the building physically, but YOU all have made it apparent that the CHURCH is still there!



Blessing Boxes

With winter here, we are finding the need just as concerning as ever. Because of the colder temperatures we are not able to put some items in the outreach boxes. We ask that

you <u>not</u> to bring food items that are canned or in glass containers until warmer weather is here in the spring.

Here are some suggestions of things to donate:

pasta or side dish packets with rice or pasta

oatmeal or boxes of cereal but not large ones due to space issues

granola or breakfast bars

dried beans, rice, nuts, instant soup mixes

boxed potatoes such as Au gratin or instant mashed potatoes

baking mixes such as Bisquick

muffin or bread mixes

For the non-food box, donations of paper products, puzzle books for recreation, face masks, socks & winter items like hats, mittens and scarves, fabric softener sheets, powder laundry detergent, mouthwash, bar soap or solid deodorants would be appreciated.

Looking Ahead:



Spring Swiss Steak Dinner Saturday, April 17, 2021

4:30-7:00 p.m.

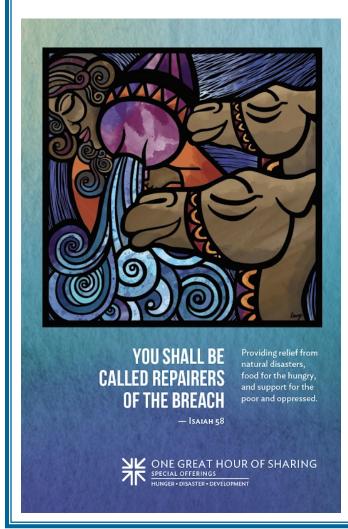
Adults \$10.00 Children \$5.00

Same great meal, but take out style.

Drive Thru Take Out Onlu

It's Back!!
The Annual Church Garage Sale!
Saturday, June 5, 2021
Watch for details in the coming weeks.



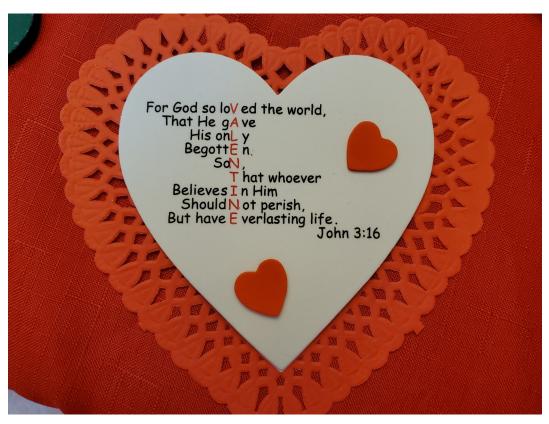


Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

We will receive the special offering on March 28, Palm Sunday. Give generously so that all will feel the love of Christ.



News briefs...



Session News

Session Notes

December 8th approved January 14, 2021

CORRESPONDENCES: The Harborcreek Preschool thanks the church for the snacks that were provided to them during the fall season.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Robin explained to session about a telephone process for members who can't receive the on-line streaming of our Sunday worship services. This is as simple as dialing in, by phone, to hear the service, for only a fee of \$10 a month for 500 minutes, with no contracts. This service is available to those who are interested.

TRAILBLAZER'S REPORT: The "Blessing boxes" are now in winter mode.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION: Since this is Jennifer's last meeting before completing her term on Session, we thanked her for her many years of service.

MEMBERSHIP CARE & DEVELOPMENT: Membership calls and cards are still being made/ sent to all. The committee is willing to work with Deacons to deliver holiday poinsettias to shut-ins.

MISSION & OUTREACH: The "support a child" backpack program has paid back the \$2500 startup with more money still coming in.

The November 29th upper room luncheon served 32 people.

The next St. Paul's upper room luncheon will be January 31^{st} 2021.

NOMINATING & TRAINING: A special thanks to those who were finishing their terms on Session. Jennifer and Jim Watson will not be returning and Dave Maille and Jared Mosier will be staying on. Thank you!!

PROPERTY: Ann Nesgoda reported that Joe Wingerter is willing to continue with the sidewalk clearing of snow when necessary. Jim Sul will be plowing and spreading salt in the parking lot. The tower roof replacement project will be moved to the spring.

Respectively submitted Mary Ellen Flowers, clerk



Session Notes

(from approved January minutes)

Session approved the following committee assignments:

Clerk: M.E. Flowers

Spiritual Formation: Jennifer Wedzik (not on session

Membership, Care & Development: Barb Griffith & Ann Nesgod

Mission & Outreach: Ann Nesgoda & & Sue Kellerman Nominating & Training: M.E. Flowers & Barb Griffith

Personnel: Sue Kellerman & Scott Shunk

Property: Scott Shunk & Bob Kellerman & Dave Maille Stewardship & Finance: Dave Maille, & Bob Kellerman Worship & Media Ministries: Chris Thomas & Jared Mosier

The following "thank yours" were read and acknowledged:

From Presbytery for paying our 2020 per capita and mission,

From the Harborcreek Food Bank backpack program for our participation.

For Christmas gifts from Chris Thomas, Jim Watson, Mary Ellen Flowers & Robin Cuneo.

From Harborcreek Preschool for refreshments for students at Christmas time.

Session requested that the clerk send out a Thank You to Rev. Keith Sunberg in appreciation for all of his support and guidance while he was acting co-presbyter

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Robin reported on the unanimous election of Rev. Anita Bernhardt as General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Lake Erie. Pastor Robin explained to session about one of the projects Anita would like to start working on is a virtual library. We are one of the only churches in the presbytery with a virtual choir. Session has requested the Media Ministry committee to send files of examples we are using, to Rev. Bernhardt.

TRAILBLAZER'S REPORT: The committee would like to thank all who helped put together the candle light Christmas Eve Silent Night ending to the service. Very Nice.

STEWARDSHIP: Dave than presented the 2021 budget for the church. He highlighted several items on the income and expenses within the budget. Right now the plan is to hold all fundraisers during the year.

MISSION & OUTREACH: The next St. Paul's upper room luncheon will be January 31st 2021. Around 40 brown bag lunches will be dropped off at the site. The 2020 Christmas Joy Offering was \$705.00.

NEW BUSINESS: The following Corporation officers were elected:

President: Scott Shunk Vice President: David Maille Secretary: Mary Ellen Flowers Treasurer: Jim Watson

More News briefs...

<u>DONATE TO YOUR CHURCH</u> <u>AND STILL GET A TAX BREAK</u>

For those of us over 70 1/2 of age and have an IRA or 401K retirement account(s), as you know we are required to take a withdrawal(s) from the account(s) each year. This withdrawal, called a Required Minimum Distribution, (RMD), becomes taxable income.

Did you know that you can transfer any amount of money, up to \$100,000, directly from your IRA or 401K account(s) to charity each year? Well, the answer is YES, you can!

This transfer is called a **Qualified Charitable Distribution**, (QCD), which counts towards your RMD, but unlike an RMD, a QCD is NOT included in your adjusted gross income!

Here is an example. If you wish to make a \$2500 donation using money you receive from ANY source, including an RMD from your IRA/401, that money is taxable to the IRS. It must be reported as income, and depending on your tax bracket, you will pay an estimated \$375 - \$500 in income tax on the \$2500. Bottom line - to make a \$2500 donation, it will actually cost you between an estimated \$2875 - \$3000 out of pocket.

With the use of a QCD, your \$2500 donation will only costs you \$2500 and you legally avoid paying \$375-\$500 in federal income tax!

You can make a QCD to one or more tax-qualified charities each year. NOTE: The transfer must be made directly from your IRA/401K to the charity to count as a QCD. You can't just withdraw the money first and write a check to the charity. You simply contact your IRA/401K administrator and instruct them that you would like to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution for \$xxxxx to the charity of your choice, (1st Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek).

If you use a QCD to make a donation to the charity, let them know the money is coming so they can send you a confirmation of this donation, which you should keep with your tax records.

Please give strong consideration to the use of a QCD to transfer taxable RMD distributions to the church and have it become non-taxable.

P.S. When it is tax time, I can/will send anyone who makes a QCD to the church the information for reporting this non-taxable distribution on your tax filing. All of this is very simple.

Bob Kellerman

Stewardship Committee



Church Committee Sign-ups

As you remember, we used to have clip boards in the back of the church for you to choose which committee you were interested in helping out with the New Year's planning and decision making.

This year, because of the pandemic, you will not be able to "sign up" on a clip board, BUT we still want your involvement. So what we are doing different, is listing below the Session member committee chairs, which are in charge of each committee for you to call if interested in helping:

Spiritual Formation (Christian Education):

Jennifer Wedzik (not on session)

Membership, Care & Development:

Barb Griffith & Ann Nesgoda

Mission & Outreach:

Ann Nesgoda & & Sue Kellerman

Nominating & Training:

M.E. Flowers & Barb Griffith

Personnel:

Sue Kellerman & Scott Shunk

Property:

Scott Shunk & Bob Kellerman & Dave Maille

Stewardship & Finance:

Dave Maille, & Bob Kellerman

Worship & Media Ministries:

Chris Thomas & Jared Mosier

Church Office Hours

The secretary has resumed regular office hours. She will be available Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Office Phone number: 814-899-1031 Email Address: Harborcreek.fpc2@aol.com

Website: hcpresbyterian.org

Winter 2021 Preschool Newsletter



The preschoolers were busy collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the children who attend the Benedictine Downtown Kids' Café. This was done during the month of December in place of a student Christmas gift exchange! The grand total collected was: 40 pairs of gloves, 32 hats, 7 scarves and 10 winter wear sets. Great job!

January and February brought a flurry of various school activities involving letters "K" through "Q." The preschoolers enjoyed an inside "Winter Fun Day" in January complete with hot cocoa and marshmallows; made their own maracas during "Mm" week; enjoyed a "Valentine's Day" celebration (complete with candy treats!) in February; and participated in a "Pajama,

Play dough, & Puzzle Day" also in February when everyone wore their favorite pajamas to preschool to celebrate "Pp" week! Who says "learning" isn't "FUN"!!

The preschoolers created beautiful handmade valentines for WCTL-FM's "Healing Hearts Valentine's Day Project!" The radio station then distributed the cards to the residents of local nursing homes and senior living facilities. We were very excited to be a part of such a worthwhile community project!

The boys and girls are now busy practicing their addresses and phone numbers, along

with number, letter, and letter sound recognition skills, rhyming skills, and even some Kindergarten words! -- as we evaluate for our second Progress Report being distributed at the end of February.

As you can see, we are always very busy at Preschool! Until next time, take care and stay warm!

Char Chmielewski

P.S. Preschool registration for the 2021-2022 school year will take place at the end of April. So if you know someone who is interested in attending, please have them call the Preschool at 897-1401 to have their name put on a mailing list.

We would also like to thank Mary Stewart for creating a virtual tour of the preschool on the church website. This is wonderful since actual "in-person" school tours cannot take place this year due to the virus.

2021 Per Capita

As part of a **connectional church system**, we contribute \$32 per member to help support the Lake Erie Presbytery, Synod of the Trinity and the Biennial General Assembly. We ask members of the congregation to help with this obligation by covering their part of the apportionment by the end of March. There is a special blue envelope in your offering box or you can just write "per capita" on a generic envelope (or memo line of your check). Offering envelope boxes are available at the top of the stairs near the offices.

Thanks, Stewardship and Financial Committee



PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a request for the prayer chain, please speak to any 2021 Deacon or Peggie Smith (814-899-9103) to activate the prayer chain. We care about confidentiality so please let us know what information you would like to share and what is confidential.

Church Family News...



February/March Birthdays and Anniversaries

February Birthdays

- 5 James Watson
- 7 Sue Resinger
- 18 John Brown
- 23 Larry Hanes
- 23 Carol Mulvin
- 27 Ryan Lemke
- 28 James Stewart
- 28 Jeremy Stewart

February Anniversaries

- 22 Bob & Linda DeAngelo
- 28 Dean & Joanne Scott

March Birthdays

- 1 Aye Mosier
- 2 Carrie Woodard
- 2 Mary Sklanowski
- 4 Bill Nesgoda
- 6 Ron Flowers
- 10 Ann Nesgoda
- 11 Michael King
- 13 Jacque Foust
- 16 Judy Ellwood
- 16 Bonnie Duckett
- 18 Linda DeAngelo
- 20 John Erickson
- 22 Ron Washe
- 24 Dave Maille
- 28 Amy Erickson

March Anniversaries

17 Don & Bonnie Duckett



Prayer List: For those serving in the armed forces. Ricky Hinkle, Jeremy Rockwell, Ryan Lemke, & Brian Hellmann. For the Lake Erie Presbytery & its leaders; for our pastor, Robin Cuneo, for church members, family & friends, we pray.

Please remember in prayer those who work in the medical field, public safety, first responders and all workers who have returned to work.

Barb Bemis Claudia Brown & Mike Faycheck Family of Trish Claypoole Lois Cochran Margaret Crider Donna Fannin Kevin Fisher Rev. Jack Graham Shirley Hamm Rachel Hube Judy Johnson
Pat Kocher
Ann Marie Kodba
Beverly Leighton
Dick May
Hannah May
Emily Mellish
Bob and Carol Mulvin
Family of Jim Nelson
Yvonne Peters
Wilda Resinger
Marsha Rzodkiewicz

Dean Scott
Sandy Spangler
Sandy Stewart
Larry Stultz
Megan Sweezey
Sue Tuszynski
(Annie Stewart's sister)
Sally Wakeley
Ron Washe
Abigail Wilkinson
David Zacks

Remember Our Homebound



Some of you have asked about what you can do to keep connected to those who are unable to come to worship or participate in church activities. Listed below are some of those you could send a card or a note of encouragement.

Lois Cochran Margaret Crider
4400 E. Lake Road Heritage House
Apt. 257 30 East Street
Erie, PA 16511 North East, PA 16428

Jessie Denniston
1885 Rifle Range Rd.
Cove 34
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Peggy Nelson
2 Gibson St. Apt. 102
North East, PA 16428

Sandy Spangler Room 9 227 W. 22nd Street

Eleanor Stanley Springhill Center 2323 Edinboro Rd. 518c Erie, PA 16509

Erie, PA 16502



March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed		Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3		4	5	6
7 3rd Sunday of Lent Live-Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.	8	9	10		Session ZOOM Meeting 6:00 p.m.	12	13
14 4th Sunday of Lent Live-Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.	15	16	17	Don't forget—We are still following all the guidelines that will keep us safe during this pandemic. Whenever you are in the building or on church property, you must			
21 5th Sunday of Lent Live-Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.	22	23	wear a mask and keep a 6 foot distance from others. Please follow all the posted guidelines throughout the church. Remember it is our spiritual responsibility to care for and protect each other!				
28 Palm/Passion Sunday Live-Stream Worship 11:00 a.m.	29	30	31		April 1 Maundy Thursday Worship 7:30 p.m.	April 2 Good Friday Worship 7:30 p.m.	