

First Presbyterian Church

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April MESSENGER 2021

FROM THE PASTOR

No one likes change. Actually, that is not accurate. More accurate is that some change we like and some we do not. A year ago in April, we had to make a lot of changes. We donned facemasks, limited in-person social interaction, and hunkered down. We also slowed down, created family and social bubbles, and reevaluated our lives. At church, we moved worship online, suspended Bible studies, and stopped hugging. We also began a more intentional prayer life at 11:22 AM, we reconnected over the phone, and we learned a lot.

Fast forward to April 2021 and we face changes once again. What a joy at the last session meeting to make the decision of restarting Bible studies, coffee hour, and resuming more elements in our worship service. Other changes are more difficult. This month we say goodbye to Bree Miles, who has served faithfully as our Administrative Assistant/Financial Secretary. We are thrilled at her new opportunity as an Office Manager in Lewiston, but we hate to see her go. (Do hold in prayer our process of finding new staff.) No doubt, we may face other difficult changes this month -- such is the nature of life, even history.

Of all the changes in human history, none surpasses the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus. If ever there was an event in history that *changed* the course of history -- if ever there was an event in history with a before and an after -- it is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. *This* event is *the* event. Even more, the Resurrection of our Lord not only changed history in general, but it changes our personal lives in particular. It is because of the Resurrection of our Lord that we can face whatever changes life bring our way. A lot of history has happened in the 2,000-year existence of the church. Yet, regardless of how history and life-altering these events have been, the Holy Spirit has continued to proclaim through God's people, "Christ is Risen." And we at First Presbyterian Church will continue to affirm this Truth as we seek Christ and serve others -- together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave

Preaching Notes

Now that Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, what is he doing? That's the question the book of Acts answers. I like to 'extend' the title from "Acts" to "The Book of the Acts of the Risen Lord Jesus." Acts continues the story of Jesus in the lives of the community who trusts in him and so is empowered by the Holy Spirit. Like us, the first Christians were particular people with particular names: Peter, Mary, James, Stephen, Tabitha. Like us, they had vocations: father, mother, tent-maker, fisherman, dress maker. Like us they gathered in joyful fellowship, and like us they faced challenges and conflict. Above all, the early Christians, like us, were not spectators to God's work in the world, but participants. Studying Acts grounds us in our identity as the people of God amid a changing world.

April 4	John 20:1-18	The Turn		April 18	Acts 4:5-14	The Name
April 11	Acts 3:12-26	The Beggar		April 25	Acts 4:23-37	The Fellowship

Summary of Session Meeting

- Session in its time of study reflected on Psalm 107 and Philippians 2. Specifically how do we look back on the past year in terms of losses and gains to the church family? Looking to future what opportunities for ministry and growth of the church are calling us? Lost opportunities include loss of community within the church family with limited availability for fellowship before and after worship and in-person small groups. We have opportunities for the coming year to be together more fully as the church family in person and also to show the community that the mission of our church is strong. We want to reach out to those in the church family and community who have been isolated during the past year.
- Coffee hour will resume in Hendrick Hall after worship.
- Session will explore what it would take to livestream the Lord's Day worship service, as well as consider technology upgrades in Hendrick Hall.

Financials

Finances as of February 2021

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 83,776.36	\$ 64,145.91
Expense	\$ 63,520.00	\$ 64,146.11
Inc./Exp.	\$ 20,256.36	\$ (0.20)



The Union Gospel Mission is coming to the LC-Valley and your session wants to support this ministry. Their mission is to "reach the poor with the power and love of the Gospel so that they may become God dependent, contributing members of society." If you want to know more about UGM and their mission here in the Valley, we'd encourage you to attend one of their informational meetings at 6 p.m. (all in Lewiston and one that is virtual):

- * April 08 @ First Church of the Nazarene
- * April 16 @ Facebook Live Event at 7 p.m.
- * May 20 @ Orchards Community Church
- * June 24 @ River City Church

For God so *loved*
that He *Gave* the world,
His only
begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in Him
should not perish but have
Everlasting
- John 3:16 *life.*



April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Art Johnstone 04 Hollie Williams 07 Lois Devereaux 09 Lorraine Cline 13 Leo Cline 17 Erik Loseth 23 Ian Guillotte 23	Don Greggain 26 <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">HAPPY BIRTHDAY</div>			1 10 a.m. Social Hour 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday	2 8 a.m. Grumpies 8:45 Morning Stretch 7 p.m. Al Anon <i>Good Friday</i>	3 7 a.m. 24 hour Easter Prayer Vigil
4 Communion 6 a.m. - Sunrise Service @ Myklbust Home 10 a.m. Worship & SS <i>Easter Sunday</i>	5	6	7 4 p.m. Prayer Service	8 10 a.m. Social Hour	9 8 a.m. Grumpies 8:45 a.m. Morning Stretch 7 p.m. Al Anon	10 7 a.m. 2nd Sat.
11 10 a.m. Worship & SS	12	13	14 4 p.m. Prayer Service	15 10 a.m. Social Hour	16 8 a.m. Grumpies 8:45 a.m. Morning Stretch 7 p.m. Al Anon	17
18 10 a.m. Worship & SS 2 pm Session Retreat	19 6:30 p.m. Session Meetin 2:30 p.m. CASA	20	21 4 p.m. Prayer Service	22 10 a.m. Social Hour	23 8 a.m. Grumpies 8:45 a.m. Morning Stretch 7 p.m. Al Anon	24
25 10 a.m. Worship & SS	26 6 p.m. Deacon's Meeting	27 1:30 p.m. Kairos Meeting	28 4 p.m. Prayer Service	29 10 a.m. Social Hour	30 8 a.m. Grumpies 8:45 a.m. Morning Stretch 7 p.m. Al Anon	