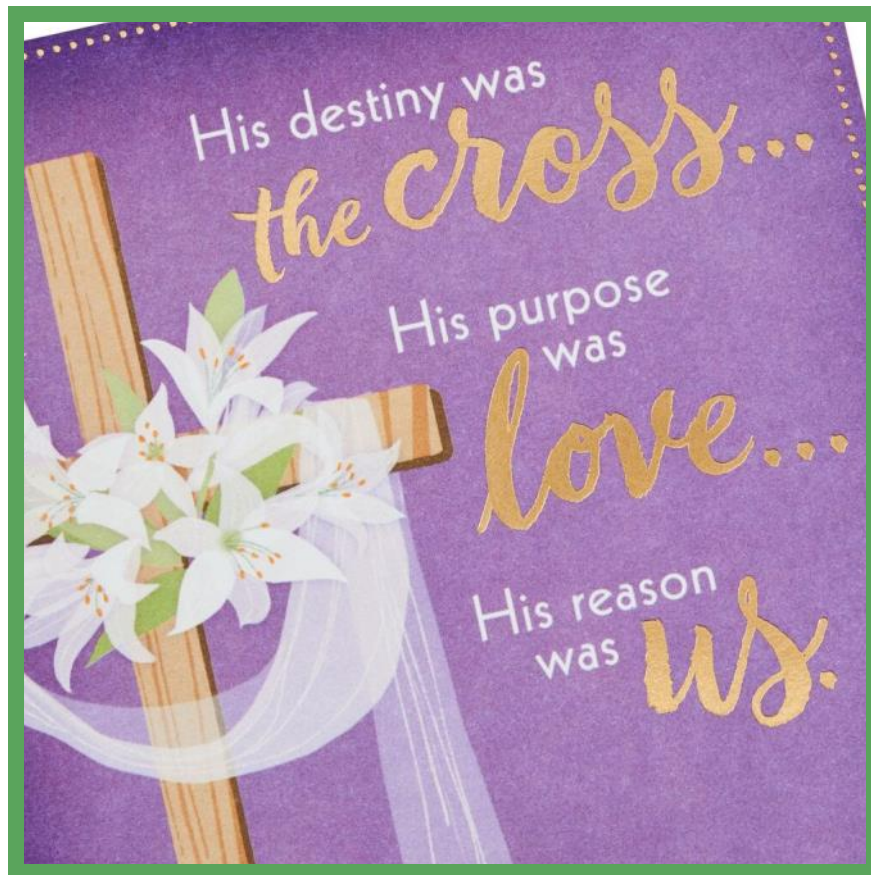


Northwest Presbyterian Church
Monthly Newsletter



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 2:00pm

After Hours Emergency Only: (727) 433-2115 or (727) 748-5160

Pastor Elizabeth Coleman

6330 54th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709
(727) 544-4551 * elizabethcoleman49@gmail.com
office6330@gmail.com * Website: nwpchurchfl.com



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I received the following excerpt from a letter written by Martin Luther in the 16th Century, from a longtime friend, John Bleimaier, this week, and thought it might also be appropriate to share with you at this time: - Pastor Elizabeth

When Martin Luther was facing a Black Death plague epidemic in the 16th Century, he wrote the following to one of his colleagues:

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, He will surely find me and I have done what He has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See, this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

"Those who are engaged in a spiritual ministry and pastors must remain steadfast before the peril of death. We have a plain command from Christ, 'A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.'"

"Yes, no one should dare leave his neighbor unless there are others who will take care of the sick in their stead and nurse them. In such cases we must respect the word of Christ, "I was sick and you did not visit me ..." [Matt. 25:41-46]. According to this passage we are bound to each other in such a way that no one may forsake the other in his distress but is obliged to assist and help him as he himself would like to be helped."

Luther's Works Volume 43 pg 132 the letter "Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague."

Thank you to all who continue to faithfully support the financial ministries at Northwest. For those who are able, you can mail your contributions to:

Northwest Presbyterian Church 54th Avenue North St. Petersburg, 33709



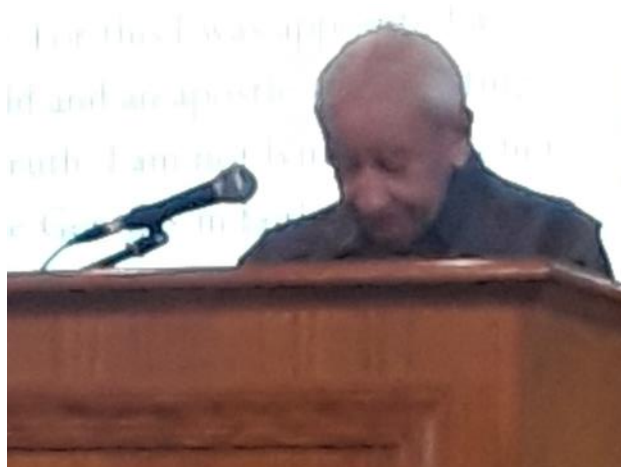
I am hoping to be able to soon accept financial gifts electronically through our website at NWPCHURCHFL.COM

When that is available, we will let you know.

As we all Shelter in Place during this national pandemic may we as Christians remember ...

Psalm 91:4 He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection.

In HIS Love, Paulette



Dear Friends,

Our brother in Christ Ricardo Morgner went to Heaven Wednesday, March 18; he died peacefully in his sleep. His sister went to visit him and found his body in his bed. Ricardo, originally from Ecuador, South America, moved from Chicago, IL to St. Petersburg, and he found our church. He particularly wanted to attend a Presbyterian church, and he quickly became a member. He came to a number of Joy Club events; he joined the choir and attended Wednesday morning Bible Study. He volunteered to read the Scriptures for our worship services. He wanted to improve his English, and I think he wanted to know God better.

He'd had health problems but he was determined to make things better. He was able to control diabetes for a number of years by exercise (10,000 steps a day), drinking plenty of water and his diet (no fast food!), although it was reported that more recently he needed to take diabetes medication.

You may recall when his beautiful young niece Elva came to visit from Ecuador, and she would attend church with him. She went back to Ecuador and later her lovely younger sister Nicole came to visit. Nicole became the mother of a healthy boy, now 1 year old, named Manuel.

Ricardo had a heart for his family; I don't believe that he had ever married, but it was family that drew him to St. Petersburg. Another sister of his lives in Assisted Living on 66th Street; he went to visit her faithfully.

Ricardo told me he had suffered from a temporary blindness from 2014 to 2018. The condition was because of a stroke he suffered in his eye. He went to a specialist who prescribed Avastin which was excellent to treat the eye stroke, which may have been related to diabetes. His eye sight was almost normal by November, 2018.

Ricardo told me just a few weeks ago that he had an opportunity to study Hebrew in an on-line course. Ricardo, a quiet man, was always reaching to improve his life, and we will miss him.

May the Lord comfort his family, friends and also those in our church. Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

Barb Piwonka

WYCLIFFE ASSOCIATES STAMP MINISTRY



Wycliffe Associates which translates the Bible for people all over the world wishes to thank you who have donated used stamps, canceled or uncanceled, taken off the corner of the envelopes you have received in the mail. About 6 people or more here at Northwest Presbyterian have been faithful to save these used stamps and bring them in to be handed over to Wycliffe through my friend Debbie Pool. Two people have donated stamp collections which probably had great worth.

Why does anyone want used stamps? They are processed and sold to stamp collectors world-wide, and the funds generated are used for missionaries and translations. This year the funds were used to help Bible translation in Madagascar, the island country off the east coast of Africa. There are 18 indigenous languages in Madagascar, which is known for the lemurs (unusual animals!), and they are working to translate the last six of those languages.

Here are a few guidelines for you to following in donating your used stamps:

Save all stamps, U.S. and foreign, canceled and uncanceled computer vended postage

When possible, leave 1/2-inch border all around the stamp.

Also collect picture postcards, stamp collections or any other stamp related items.

Bring them to church and put them in the small round tin in the Narthex, or just give them to me.

Thank you for your help with this worthwhile project!
Barb Piwonka



We may not be able to gather together but there is a call-chain in place for members to check on each other. Someone should be calling you at least once a week. If you had not had a call or need some assistance, contact Kris our office administrator. She can be reached by email at office6330@gmail.com or by calling the church. Let's all stay in touch and don't be afraid to reach out if you have a need.

I AM THE CHURCH, YOU ARE THE CHURCH, WE ARE THE CHURCH

Songs THE OF Season

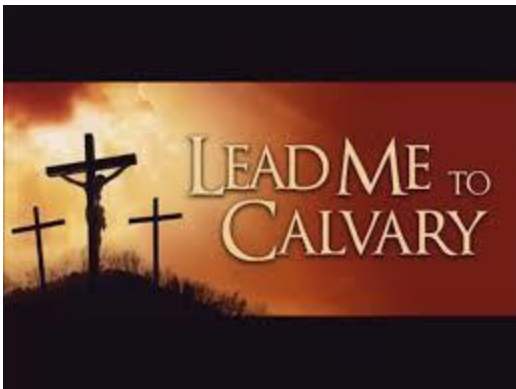
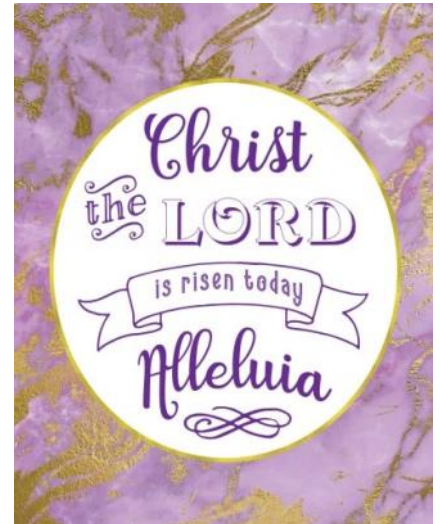
Christ the Lord is risen today! from www.traditionalmusic.co.uk

1 "Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia!
All creation, join to say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2 Loves redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won; Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise; Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

3 Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls to save; Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to You by both be given; Alleluia!
Every knee to You shall bow, Alleluia!
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!



King of my life, I crown Thee now
Thine shall the glory be
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow
Lead me to Calvary

Lest I forget Gethsemane
Lest I forget Thine agony
Lest I forget Thy love for me
Lead me to Calvary

May I be willing, Lord, to bear
Daily my cross for Thee
Even Thy cup of grief to share
Thou hast borne all for me

Lest I forget Gethsemane
Lest I forget Thine agony
Lest I forget Thy love for me
Lead me to Calvary

Lest I forget Gethsemane
Lest I forget Thine agony
Lest I forget Thy love for me
Lead me to Calvary



Submitted by: Rose West-Phillips

This has to be the most usual Easter season that any of us has ever experienced.

Everyone is concerned by the coronavirus that is all over our earth. For me it is a lesser thing because of what I have experienced during the month of March.

I awoke on the last day of February of horrible pain. It felt like a big elephant was sitting on my chest and was throwing needles and pins into my left breast. A 911 call had me on the way to St. Anthony's hospital.

After testing and probing the doctors discovered that this gal who is supposed to have rhythm, was all out of sync. A Fib: the upper chambers of the heart are not in tune (so they speak). Don't ask me how they do this, but the doctors use probes to "get into the heart" and shock it so it will beat properly. There are two small blockages of the blood vessels that nourish the heart which are being treated with medication.

To keep myself well, I must exercise more and lose some pounds. I still have problems breathing and terrible upper back pain, however, Nothing or No one will get this gal down!!

Everything that we had planned for churches and the Easter Season have been put on hold because of this darn virus.

Elizabeth and I have decided (via e-mail) that the Easter service will be held the first or second Sunday after the curfew is lifted. If the curfew is lifted close to a Sunday, we would need time to "brush" up on the music.

Hope to see all of you soon. In church. At this time our trip to Indiana for the summer is on hold.

On a sad note the choir says good bye to one of our faithful choir members. Ricardo we will miss you.



The Church Office is currently closed and will remain so until further notice, however, you can still contact us by calling the regular office number of 727-544-4551 and your call will be answered remotely. Use this service to get updated information or to let us know how you are doing.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayer support for our GriefShare group that started meeting in January. Our 16 initial attendees dropped to 11 through the weeks, but we were beginning to bond and support one another, so it was disappointing that we were not able to meet because of COVID19. The GriefShare organization worked to make the videos accessible on-line to our registered groups for this temporary interruption and suggested we do either video- or audio-conferencing. So our Northwest GriefShare group met by telephone March 30th--it worked! We had 6 people to discuss the video and the workbook exercises, and just to catch up with each other. Since we missed 2 meetings, we will extend this cycle through April 27th. We are glad to have some continuity and help for the grieving in these unstable times. Here's some encouragement from God for everyone in every circumstance:

"Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and His understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary,
and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:28-31



FAITH VS. FEAR

During this time of social isolation in response to the Covid-19 virus we have an opportunity to draw near to God, to study His Word, and to build up our believing. When faced with circumstances that are scary, one of the things that is encouraging to me and to others is to have one or two verses from God's Word that speak to our hearts. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Since He knows the future, none of these current events are a surprise to Him. He is faithful, and what He promises through scripture He will bring to pass in our lives as we believe.

The media likes to capitalize on fear and keeping people on the edge of their seats. Years ago when I did a summer internship at one of the local news stations, they would rank the different leading stories on how scary and shocking they were. The point they wanted to make was, this is happening now and it could happen to you. When we are constantly flooded with this way of seeing the world it is easy to develop a lifestyle (or spirit) of fear. This stands in direct opposition to what it says in the Bible. One of my favorite verses comes from 1 Timothy 1:7 *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* When we renew our minds to think like God thinks, as we are reminded in Romans 12:2 and 8:31, we recognize that God is with us and for us. He promises to deliver us, to heal us, and that as we seek Him we will lack no good thing. (Psalm 34:17, Psalm 107:21 and Psalm 34:9-10)

One of my favorite quotes comes from Corrie Ten Boom, author of *The Hiding Place*, who lived through World War II and survived the prison camps in Germany, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." God will bring us through this time of uncertainty because He always delivers His children. Now the way He is going to do it is not going to be our way. Because His ways are not our ways (see Isaiah 55:8). When God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt He led them right through the Red Sea. He could have built a bridge, provided a boat, or had them walk around it. Instead, He used Moses to clear a path right through the middle with walls of water towering up on either side of them. This must have been pretty frightening to walk through, yet God made it so they walked through on completely dry ground. The Israelites had to choose to trust where God was leading them and walk by faith through to the other side. We also have a choice today to trust where God is leading us, to walk by faith, even when the way ahead seems scary, and to keep our hearts and minds on how BIG our God, the Lord of heaven and earth, is.

Let me remind you that what you feed will grow. If you feed your mind on all the latest news and scary predictions your fear will grow. If instead you feed yourselves a steady diet of God's promises and let His Spirit remind you of all truth, His peace will grow and guard your hearts and your minds.

My fellow believers may we continue to grow in knowing God and standing on His Word and may the peace of Christ reign in our hearts and minds.

Betsy O'Callaghan

He is Risen

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.

Rejoice in the resurrection of

Jesus Christ.



WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!

Easter Word Search

G	S	N	O	I	T	P	M	E	D	E	R	Y	Y	M
J	J	U	Y	K	I	R	Y	T	T	F	X	E	O	L
R	L	K	F	W	E	E	C	I	O	J	E	R	C	K
X	Y	N	G	Q	C	U	W	V	U	P	C	M	C	K
R	C	R	O	S	S	H	R	E	D	P	H	M	N	E
I	F	V	A	I	B	Q	U	I	R	G	P	Q	R	N
S	A	Q	Z	M	T	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	T	S
E	I	A	O	I	R	C	H	R	C	O	Y	I	U	E
N	T	T	P	R	C	G	E	Y	O	H	S	S	R	L
I	H	H	S	O	O	C	A	R	K	I	E	P	V	K
N	W	O	R	C	S	D	U	B	R	J	V	R	G	T
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D	P	V	O	U	Q	F	L	D	K	A	S	Y	S	H
Z	M	E	S	B	Z	Z	W	E	M	L	Y	E	D	F
E	T	G	L	M	E	G	K	B	S	L	T	R	R	U

APOSTLES
CROWN
LAMB
PRAYER
RESURRECTION
SON

CHURCH
FAITH
MARY
REDEMPTION
RISEN
SUNDAY

CROSS
JESUS
MIRACLE
REJOICE
SAVIOR
TOMB



Nancy Zarich, Claire Brulatour, Ruth Brennan, Dorothy Davis, Sally Ross, Richard Bohle, Tina Lundgren, Roberta Koning and Judy Churchman.



Please notify the church business office or Sue Parrish or Pam Fonte if you would like to add someone to our homebound or to join the Congregational Care Team that visits our homebound.



Requests for prayers may be called in to **Shirley Wildes** at (727) 238-3938. If you are interested in joining the Prayer Chain, please contact Shirley at the above telephone number. You may also post prayer requests on NWP Facebook Page or contact the office and ask that your request be published in the weekly announcement or the monthly newsletter.

Also, at the end of every Sunday service, there is a time when you can ask for prayers from the congregation.

It is proven...Prayer Works!



Our Food Pantry is still operating as a drive-thru every Wednesday morning from 9am until Noon. In the last 2 weeks we have served 90 people. God is Good all the time.



A new and updated **Church Directory** is in the works. Times like these have shown us how important it is to be able to stay in touch with one another.

To that end, please take a moment to carefully check your information in the current directory. If there are any changes that need to be made, please contact Kris Parks at 727 544-4551.



1

Sally Ross

10

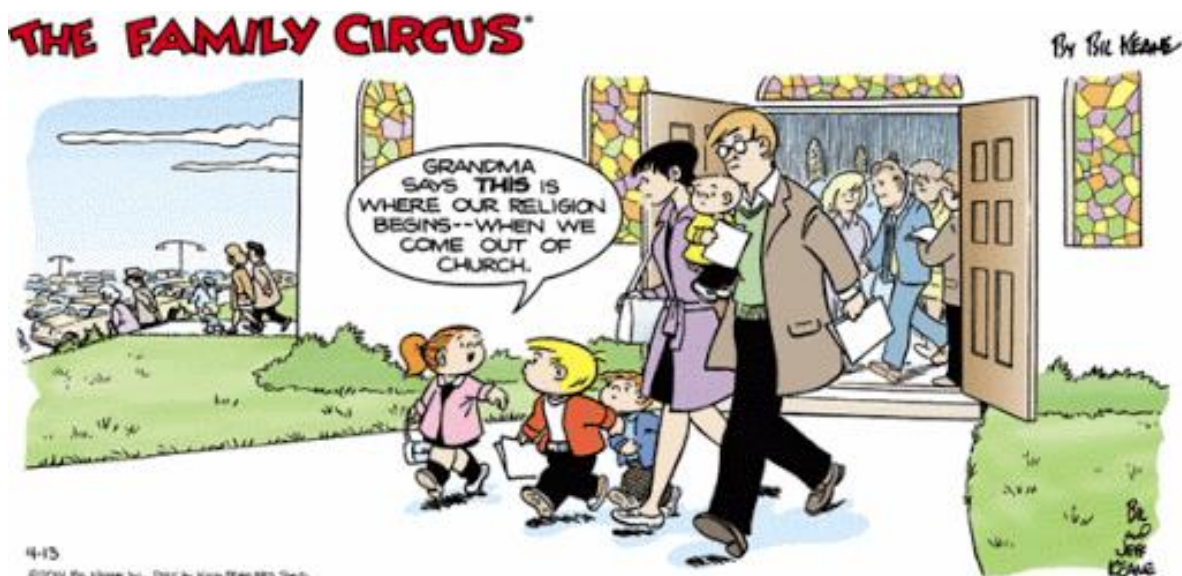
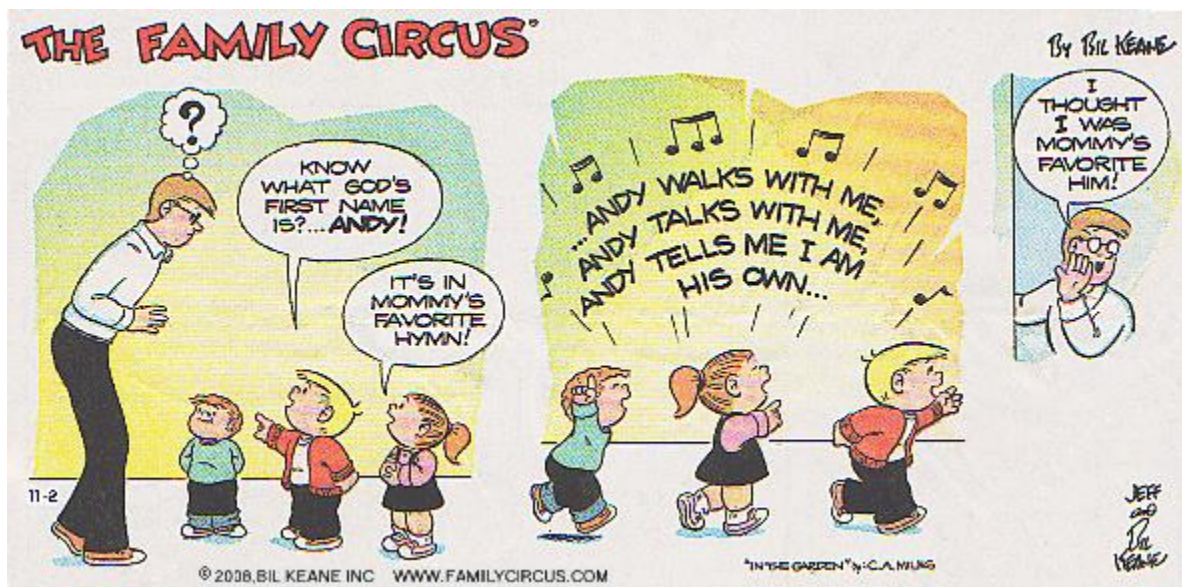
Stella Adams

25

Charlotte Ogilvie

28

Jim Leiby



April 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	10 <i>Good Friday</i>	11
12 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		