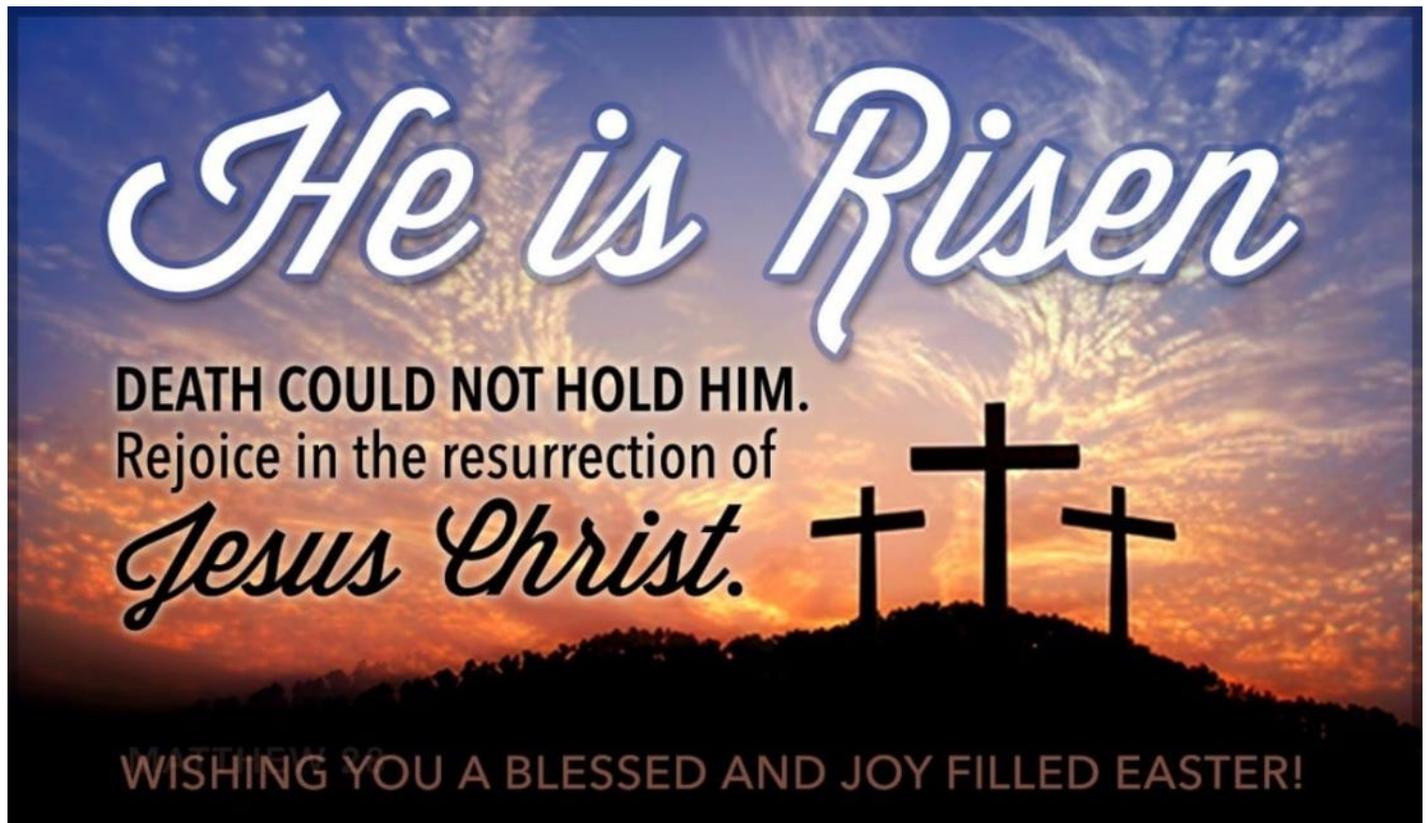


April, 2021

Vol. 4-21

Northwest Presbyterian Church
Monthly Newsletter



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

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Pastor's Corner

Northwest Presbyterian Church

Pastor Elizabeth Coleman

Resurrection

A new beginning each year is a welcome opportunity! Everything in nature echoes the resurrection of our Lord Jesus in a newness of recreated life rising up from the earth's "womb." Once again, we are reminded of how much Jesus sacrificed for us, his boundless love for us, and God's loving plan for our eternal life.

We cannot ignore the "pains of childbirth" happening all around us, as our brothers and sisters seek justice, endure persecution, and suffer the impact of the pandemic. Challenges abound, but our solid faith in Jesus our Messiah holds strong and does not fail.

We have completed our seminar series of Conversations About Race. Many thanks to those who were able to attend. There is great value in becoming aware of new insights into the family of humankind. Our time together allowed us to challenge ourselves to move beyond our own lived experience to understand the lived experiences of others.

We are saddened to see that racism has spread like a cancer to incite violence against our Asian sisters and brothers. We condemn such violence and all hatred that labels a particular group as "other" and seeks to marginalize them based on their physical appearance.

Jesus calls us to love all people unconditionally. This does not require anyone to give up one's own identity or value. It simply applies that privilege to everyone equally.

From Resurrection Day, we journey to Pentecost. The gift of salvation that Jesus gave to us through his shed blood on the cross is sealed by the promised Holy Spirit who comes to dwell within us forever. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live out a Christ-like life on the earth, and guides us to our heavenly home when this earthly life is completed. God did not leave any stone unturned in providing for us all that we need both now and forever.

Happy Resurrection Day!
-Pastor Elizabeth Coleman



*Hello and Happy Easter from your
Northwest Presbyterian Family!*



Bible Study May Meet in Person on Wednesday Mornings Later in May

How would you like to meet in-person for our Wednesday morning Bible study? When the remodeling is complete in the Fellowship Hall, we can sit at tables and "socially distance", possibly sometime in May. (The Conference Room is too small for our group to meet safely to keep from exposure to COVID-19.) When the time comes, we will inform you of the date and time for in-person Bible Study meetings.

As you know our current Wednesday morning Bible Study has been meeting by ZOOM as we focus on Jesus' Parables in Chronological Order. You can still join by phone if you don't use a computer or smartphone. Just dial 1-929-205-6099; the meeting ID# is 85278910073, and the PASSWORD or PASSCODE is 452173.

Whether you join us by phone or on ZOOM, or when we meet live in-person in May, we would love to have you join us as we draw close to God through His Holy Word.

Barb Piwonka and Paulette Leiby

Betsy's Blessings

THE VALUE OF PENNIES

Pennies are so devalued in our country that most people won't even pick them up if they see one lying on the ground. They get dirty and are often overlooked. The same is often true of the homeless. They are all around us on street corners and under bridges, but most people pass them by without even noticing them. Sometimes individuals in the homeless community don't even hear someone speak their name for up to six months. But even though we may not notice them, you can be assured that God does. If He sees every sparrow that falls we can trust that He sees these people who are made in His image.

“Are not two little sparrows sold for a penny? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's leave (consent) and notice.” Matthew 10:29 AMPC

The world may teach us that our value lies in things that are temporary or only skin deep, such as looks, money or prestige. We may even believe that our value comes from what we accomplish, but God sees things in a different way. He looks deeper than the surface.

“The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7 NLT

God sees us and loves us. Think about the great value that God our Father has placed on each person, even making us in His image (see Genesis 1:27).

As we go about our daily lives, look for those people or “pennies” who are overlooked or not valued in our world. Find ways to help them see themselves as God sees them. Show them the love God has for them. And you will be ambassadors for Christ, shining God's light into a dark world.

“Now then you are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf be reconciled to God.”

2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV

Have a wonderful Resurrection Day.

God bless and love you my fellow ambassadors for Christ,

Betsy O'Callaghan

(727) 365-2324



Grief Share Brings God's Comfort by Weekly ZOOM Meetings

This Spring Session of Grief Share will draw to a close on April 12, which is our 13th week of meetings. Charlotte Ogilvie and I have been co-facilitators for a wonderful group of ten participants, some of whom live in Riverview or Tampa as well as St. Petersburg. Some people have been attending since January 18th, others joined later. Thank you for praying for God's help for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. We thank the Lord for the wisdom of the Grief Share videos and workbooks, which point us to our source of healing: the Lord Jesus Christ.

Barb Piwonka



In the months of April and May, Feeding Pinellas will be distributing fresh produce along with other food items every Wednesday from 4:30.m to 6pm.

The prepared meal distribution will continue every Thursday from 4-5pm as well as the NWP food pantry every Wednesday from 8am to Noon.

These are very valuable ministries in this community and we ask that you continue to to pray for God's continued blessings.

Choir Chat by Rose Phillips



Jim and I will be leaving for Indiana the first week of May. It is a bitter sweet thing for me. I love Florida and all of our friends here, but Connerville is a beautiful little friendly city. If any of you want to venture our way in the summer we would love to see you. We have a large 4 bed home and as Jim says, "the rates are reasonable" I plan to send a message from us to the newsletter every month.

Now for the songs I've chosen to honor this month.

WERE YOU THERE?

Included in almost every major hymnal of the last thirty years, "Were You There" is one of the most popular of the African-American spirituals. The origin is impossible to trace. Its first publication came in 1899 in William Barton's Old Plantation Songs. In most Hymnals there are only four verses. There are two more: "Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? and Were you there when the sun refused to shine?"

The series of questions that forms the basis of the song is obviously not meant to be taken literally, the questions are meant to function as a form of remembrance.

IT IS NO SECRET WHAT GOD CAN DO:

. This song means a great deal to me personally. It was my mother's favorite song. Many songs we sing are not from our hymnals, but those written by contemporary artists. Did you ever have a song that just goes on and on in your mind? It is called an earwig or an earworm. That is the name given to a tune that keeps going over and over in your head. I often hear "It Is No Secret:" "It is no Secret" was written by Stuart Hamblen, who is regarded as one of radio's first "singing cowboys" This is a song that tells you, "With arms wide open He'll pardon you And that is the point of the song. GOD WILL PARDON YOU.

SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER?

This beautiful hymn was written by Rev. Robert Lowry. His most famous hymn is Shall We Gather at the River. A very severe epidemic was raging in Brooklyn and hundreds were passing over the river of death. With his heart full of these thoughts, he seated himself at his organ and both the word and music came to him as if by inspiration,

Until next time. Love and Blessings to you all

Rose and Jim



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year's Walk for Life will be May 8th, the day before Mother's Day, and I plan to join hundreds of others in St. Petersburg at the North Shore Park to help support this Pro-Life organization. In the past years, many of you have sponsored me, pledging funds to help women with unplanned pregnancies choose life for their babies. Here are some of the free services that are offered: pregnancy tests, sonograms, STI/STD testing and treatment, well woman care, advocate counseling, life-skills training, and Christian discipleship classes; all these are provided by skilled and loving staff, medical professionals and counselors.

Please let me know if you would like to sponsor me by making a pledge of any amount, and the Walk for Life will send you a reminder in June to collect your charitable donation. So far from our church, Gloria has expressed interest to accompany me on the Walk on May 8th, the day I will turn in the pledge information. Would you like to come also?

In 2020 New Life Solutions reported that over 350 babies were saved from abortion in the Tampa Bay Area. Did you know that you can help get a pro-life amendment to the Florida constitution to be on the ballot for 2022? To get a petition or for more information go to: HumanLifeFL.com

Thank you, Northwest Church, for your prayers and support!

Sincerely,

Barbara Piwonka





Jodie and Tina Gaston – Our missionaries in England Greater Europe Mission

Tina Donaldson Gaston is Katie's late brother Jim's granddaughter. Jodie Gaston is a grandson of members of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church in South Carolina where Bill served when he graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA in 1964.

Northwest Presbyterian has been supporting Jodie's and Tina's mission work for the past five years as they served in Wales. They fell in love with Wales as they visited originally in short term mission trips. As they prayed for more workers to be raised up for the harvest there, they sensed that God was calling them to be full time workers in that ministry. They served in Wales from 2014 to 2020, loving every minute serving God in this GEM adventure.

In July, 2020, they moved from Wales to Birmingham, England to work with GEM's Focus City Project. Jodie serves as UK Field Leader for Greater Europe Mission. His passion is to lead, develop, and care for GEM's UK workforce. He also works with local churches to develop disciple-making ministries. Jodie co-leads GEM's focus city project, where he is working to develop a training hub to help missionaries and church members engage the city with the life-changing gospel of Jesus. Tina works in the local church community café and is seeking more opportunities to serve the community. They have a passion to help local churches develop vibrant small group ministries that emphasize outreach and discipleship multiplication.

Their children are a daughter, Hollis, and a son, Aedyn. The family was back in the USA for the summer seeing family during the lockdowns in UK, working from SC and writing helpful articles.

GEM is a faith based organization and all missionaries are funded entirely by the generous provision of ministry partners. Northwest contributes \$50.00 a month for their mission work.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for these people whose needs were on the Prayer Chain for March:

March 3 -- Charlotte Ogilvie asked for prayers for her friend Catherine's sons and a granddaughter

March 14 -- Shirley Wildes

March 29 -- Pastor Elizabeth's cousin Lynda Brady and family members Brandyn Brady, Brandy Williams, Jaden Sanders and JaNyah Harris

"It takes someone to pray. God moves as we pray in faith--believing. He says that His eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong in behalf of those whose hearts are blameless toward Him (2 Chronicles 16:9). We are blameless (Ephesians 1:4). We are His very own children (Ephesians 1:5). We are His righteousness in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21). He tells us to come boldly to the throne of grace and obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need--appropriate and well-timed help (Hebrews 4:16). Praise the Lord!

From Germaine Copeland's book, Prayers that avail much, p. 18



The Kairos prison ministry is looking to gather donations to be used to purchase Mother's Day and Father's Day cards that the residents can send home.

If you would like to help out, please make your donation and, mark it for Kairos and Paulette will make sure it gets to the prison.

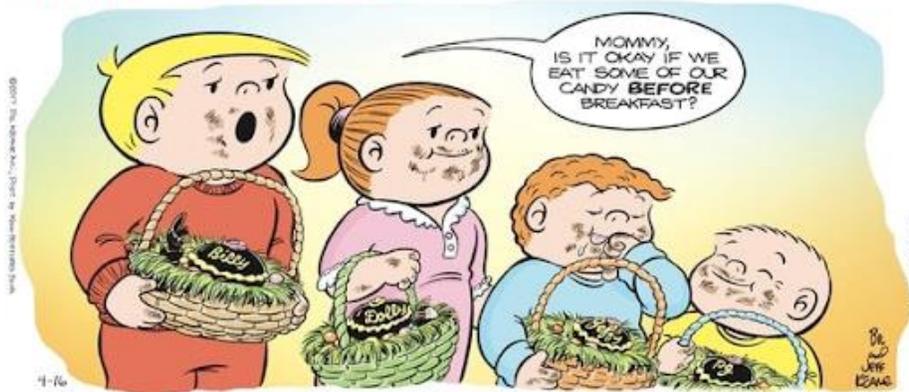


- 1 Sally Ross
- 10 Stella Adams
- 25 Charlotte Ogilvie
- 28 Jim Leiby



THE FAMILY CIRCUS™

By THE KEANE



4-6
© 2007 Bill Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com
"I liked seeing Jesus in the manger better."



4-20
© 2019 Bill Keane, Inc.
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"How do Easter lilies know what date to open up their flowers?"

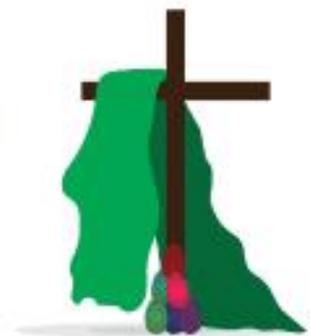
Easter Word Search

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APOSTLES
CROWN
LAMB
PRAYER
RESURRECTION
SON

CHURCH
FAITH
MARY
REDEMPTION
RISEN
SUNDAY

CROSS
JESUS
MIRACLE
REJOICE
SAVIOR
TOMB



April 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday	3 Holy Saturday
4 Easter & Communion Sunday	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Session 7pm	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	