

Donna Wike reads a story to the Wonderful Wednesday students.



THE INTERIM

Volume 81 Issue 6

March 24, 2024

From the Pastor...

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. We call it Holy Week because it is the week in which we remember our Lord's sacrifice upon the cross. Jesus' entire life leads up to Good Friday, but his mission is most clear in this final week of his life.

To say that something is holy means it is set apart and sacred. During Holy Week, I encourage you to set aside time to read John's account of Jesus' passion (chapters 12 through 19). I also invite you to our Maundy Thursday Service and the Community Good Friday Service. If you do these three things, Easter will be much more meaningful for you.

I hope you will do one other thing as well this week. Invite someone to join you on Easter Sunday. It is the day of the year that a church invitation will most likely get a positive response. Pray about who God would have you to bring and invite them. Maybe a friend, coworker, neighbor, or relative? Who needs to hear the encouraging words of Easter?

I also invite you to join us for each of the Six Sundays of Easter as we explore: The Difference Easter Makes. Easter is not just one Sunday, but an entire season. The miracle of the resurrection deserves our attention for more than just one day. I look forward to celebrating this holy season with you.

Holy Week at FBC

Maundy Thursday Service

March 28, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Community Service

March 29, 2024 - 12:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

Breakfast: 9:00 a.m.

Service: 10:00 a.m.



Schedule

Sunday, March 24

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, March 25

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, March 27

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 p.m. Wond. Wednesday After School Prog.

5:15 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal

6:00 p.m. Children's Music & Missions

6:00 p.m. Youth on Mission

6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 28

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 29

12:00 p.m. Good Friday Community Service

Saturday, March 30

10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 31

9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, April 1

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, April 3

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

No Evening Activities

Thursday, April 4

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth
 Mrs. Kristina Kyles.....Children's Ministry Associate / Preschool Director
 Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions
 Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri
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A Message from Elizabeth Kilby

As we prepare for Easter, I think of all the cleaning and prepping we do to welcome family and friends not only over to our homes, possibly for a meal, but welcoming in the spring season - the new life that is being displayed all around us and a renewed sense of hope after what a very dormant season. Two of our projects for Operation Inasmuch will be collecting hygiene items and creating snack bags. These seem small and some wonder if they make a difference. These simple items create a sense of hope in others for a brighter day and maybe a fuller belly for tomorrow.

If you have been traveling or have a past stockpile of individual hygienes travel soaps, shampoos, lotions, tooth brushes tooth paste, combs, please bring these in and give to Elizabeth Kilby.

Please plan to join us Sunday, April 28, 3:00-5:00 p.m. for Bingo! We will have a wonderful time coming together and fellowship as we raise money for our Greece Mission team. You may even win a cool prize as well. It will be a 15.00 entry fee for 2 bingo cards. Additional bingo cards and 50/50 raffle will also be available for purchase! Please bring a friend we want the room full of fun!

Elizabeth Kilby

Spiritual Statistics

	3/10	3/17
In Person	172	175
Live Stream	15	17
Sunday School	79	79

Financial Statistics

	March	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	78,588.00	533,413.00
Budget Receipts	78,691.00	434,722.00
Goals Not Met	103.00	(98,691.00)
Eddie Steele Fund	2,036.00	8,637.00
Designated	7,731.00	66,494.00

“Do You Not Yet Understand?”

A Holy Week Reflection

by Ricky Letson, www.cbfblog.org

April 4, 2023

The book *Sons & Soldiers* by Bruce Henderson tells the story of several Jewish young men who immigrated to the United States in the late 1930s and early 1940s. These sons of Germany ultimately became United States soldiers fighting against their homeland in World War II. In the military, they all served as interrogators of prisoners of war as they leveraged their knowledge of the language and culture of their native country to extract crucial information.

In preparation for this remarkable role, their training took place at Camp Ritchie in rural Maryland. The soldiers became known as Ritchie Boys and served with distinction on the battlefields of the European theater.

One of the interesting things about life at Camp Ritchie was the initial reaction of the local community to these soldiers in the early days of their training. Hearing soldiers in the woods near their home speaking German led numerous Camp Ritchie neighbors to the logical conclusion that the Nazis had invaded and that the war was now being fought on their own doorstep. In other words, they mistook these new American soldiers as the enemy.

Remembering this scene from *Sons & Soldiers* reminds me of how easy it is for us to mistake a friend as an enemy or to misunderstand someone's motives.

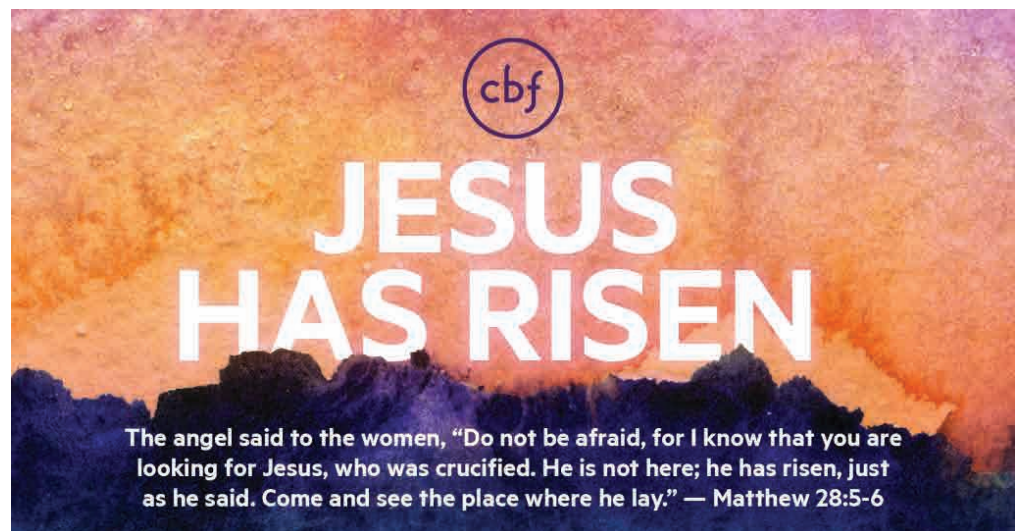
The Lenten season introduces this same challenge through the story of the misunderstanding of Jesus as described by the Gospels. The Jewish leaders saw Jesus as delusional and as a threat due to his claim to be the son of God. The Romans worried that Jesus wanted to usurp their authority and institute his own kingship. Jesus' followers struggled with the idea of messiahship believing that Jesus had come to establish some type of earthly reign.

Many of these misconceptions were a result of attempting to understand Jesus without knowing him and due to a desire to always view Jesus through the lenses already created regarding their ideas of a Messiah. Few took the time to truly get to know Jesus by listening fully to what he had to say or through being willing to allow him to reshape their understanding.

At the conclusion of Mark 8, Jesus invites the disciples into an attempt to understand the meaning of the feeding of the 4,000. As their conversation concludes, Jesus asks a haunting question in verse 21 that serves as a good question for all the Gospels when he says, “do you not yet understand?”

What about us? Do we take the time to truly get to know others? Do we allow others to speak on their own terms rather than viewing them only via predetermined lenses? Are we open to seeing things differently? Can we admit when we are wrong about God or others? What does it look like for us to fully see and understand the movement of God or recognize in the other a friend and not a foe? How can we fully understand?

Rickey Letson serves as Congregational Stewardship Officer for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.





Announcements

Wednesday Evening Menus

Cost of the meal is \$6.00/adult and \$4.00/child. No reservation is needed.

March 27
breakfast for dinner

April 3
No activities

Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:00 a.m.

Ulysses Long will perform. The menu includes meatloaf and comfort food. Cost is \$6.00 payable at the door. Please make your reservation by Monday, April 8 at noon.

The Difference Easter Makes Easter Sermon Series

March 31, 2024 - Easter Sunday
Grief Gives Way to Joy
John 20:1-18

April 7, 2024
Confusion Gives Way to Understanding
Luke 24:13-35

April 14, 2024
Fear Gives Way to Peace
John 20:19-23

April 21, 2024
Doubt Gives Way to Belief
John 20:24-29

April 28, 2024
Despair Gives Way to Hope
John 21:1-14

May 5, 2024
Guilt Gives Way to Redemption
John 21:15-19

May 12, 2024 - Ascension Sunday
Astonishment Gives Way to Witness
Acts 1:1-11

Happy Birthday

April 2

Betty Dyckes
Taylor Osborne
Gavin Williams

April 4

Lydia Green

April 5

Amanda Church

April 6

Kevin Beale

April 7

Jack Devine
Darbee Lewis

April 8

Shirley Deal

April 9

Judy Pisano

April 11

Art Fincannon

April 12

Marc Poole

April 14

Rebecca Robbins

April 16

Lois Hawkins
Chris Hedrick
Anna Gordon
Todd Price

April 17

Will Kyles
Jeff Templeton
Susan Webb-Shultz

April 18

Susan Plyler
Jim Van Zee

April 20

Mary Elliott Moore

April 21

Brock Lowrance
Bob Turnipseed

April 23

David McDaniel

April 25

Amanda Loring
Melissa Tompkins

April 26

Leah Johnson
Mary Jane Rash

April 27

Peggy Yeckley

April 28

Max James

April 29

Lucy Rash

April 30

Allen Lippard
Julie Wellman