



# THE COLUMNS

April 2020, Volume 58, Issue 4

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA



*First Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro is a community-minded congregation living out the love of Christ as we serve one another with humility, gentleness, and patience through God's grace.*

## Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

Audio Broadcast Until Further Notice

## Church Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday - 8:00 - noon

Thursday - 8:00 - 2:30

Friday - Closed

*Reprinted from March 2016 Columns*

What is **Holy Week**? As many of you already know, Holy Week is a series of Christian observances in the days leading up to Easter Sunday, in which we celebrate the events that led up to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We may be familiar with many of the days in the course of our Christian Worship, while observances that stem from other Christian traditions may seem somewhat foreign. To enlighten us, let us walk through the calendar together:

Although technically still part of Lent, **Palm Sunday** (March 20) often kicks off Holy Week celebrations. The Festival of the Palms commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem prior to his arrest and crucifixion. The event is one of the few stories mentioned in all four gospels. As we know, Palm branches are traditional symbols used in liturgy; however, in colder climates branches of native trees are often employed, including box, willow and olive. Many churches traditionally save their palm branches to be burned the following year to create ashes for Ash Wednesday.

If you're not familiar with **Holy Monday**, never fear; it is not traditionally celebrated by Reformed churches. A few do, and since Protestants stem from Roman Catholic (Western Christian) tradition, we typically follow their cue. Roman Catholics use the occasion to commemorate Jesus' Anointing at Bethany by Mary in John 12:1-9. (Never mind this actually happens before Jesus entry into Jerusalem in John.) Eastern Orthodox observances center around the judgment of the Lord expressed through the Withering of the Fig Tree in Matthew 21:18-22.

Like Holy Monday, **Holy Tuesday** also is not a typical Protestant observance; nevertheless, Roman Catholic tradition uses the occasion to revisit Jesus' prediction at the Last Supper, that one of his disciples would betray him. Eastern Orthodox tradition uses the Parable of the Ten Virgins as its central liturgical text, emphasizing the need for watchfulness and preparedness as we await the Lord's coming.

Both Catholic and Orthodox tradition use **Holy Wednesday** to commemorate the plot to kill Jesus and Judas' agreement to betray him to the religious authorities. For this reason Holy Wednesday is also commonly referred to as "Spy Wednesday". Like many other Holy Week services, the Holy Wednesday service is typically a Tenebrae service. Tenebrae comes from the Latin for "darkness". Roman Catholic Holy Wednesday services often conclude with a loud, crashing noise known as a strepitus, which symbolizes the earthquake following Jesus' death in Matthew 27:51.

**Maundy Thursday** is familiar to almost all Christian traditions. Like Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday services are typically conducted in darkness with minimal lighting, usually from candles. The observance pays homage to the Last Supper before Jesus' arrest at Gethsemane. Many congregations use foot washing to commemorate Jesus' last hours with his disciples in John 13:1-20. The name "Maundy" derives from the Latin Mandatum Novum, which refers to Jesus' "New Commandment" in John 13:34, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another." In Western tradition, church vestments traditionally are stripped at the end of the service.

**Good Friday** is almost universally observed in all Christian traditions, honoring Jesus' trial before Pilate and his subsequent crucifixion. Catholic and Orthodox traditions commemorate the day with fasting and prayers. Most Western Christian churches typically maintain a sanctuary stripped of vestments, although some follow the Eastern Orthodox tradition of introducing black vestments. Roman Catholic tradition also celebrates the "Stations of the Cross", which uses a brief symbolic journey to memorialize Jesus' walk to Calvary. The exact meaning of "Good" Friday is disputed. Some believe it is called "good" because it was good that Jesus died for our sins. Others claim that Good Friday derived from an archaic English term "God Friday". Others suggest that the word "good" is also an antiquated word for "holy".

Western Christian observances for **Holy Saturday** usually involve two parts: Morning services pay tribute to the deposition (or removal) of Jesus' body from the cross and his burial in the tomb, while in the evening, many Protestant and Catholic churches begin the Easter Vigil. The Easter Vigil, which can take place over several hours, consists of scripture readings and prayers as well as the lighting of Paschal candles to symbolize new life in Christ. Eastern traditions follow their version of an Easter Vigil, involving prayers and customs which commemorate Christ's Harrowing of Hell as well as Jesus' burial. Holy Saturday is a popular time for baptisms and confirmations in both Eastern and Western Christian tradition.

And this all leads up to **Easter Sunday** (or Resurrection of the Lord Sunday), which celebrates Christ's Resurrection and the miracle and mystery of the empty tomb! Easter Sunday is almost universally considered the high point of the Christian liturgical calendar, as it represents the fulfillment of God's promises through Jesus Christ. Easter also officially brings to a conclusion practices of fasting which began with the season of Lent.

Anyway, I hope this sheds some additional light on the variety of Holy Week traditions. Regardless of how we may celebrate this time, may we all bear the lessons of the Easter Season in our hearts and minds as we anticipate new life in Jesus Christ!

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen." Luke 24:5

Grace & Peace, George

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Session held a Stated Meeting on March 10, 2020.
- Associate General Presbyterian Nancy Meeham Yao further explained what to expect for our Interim Pastor Search Committee and our CAT Team.
- The online summary of the February Presbytery meeting at FPC was shared.
- The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be taken Easter Sunday. Inserts will appear in the bulletins March 29 and April 5. Betsy Ruehl will give a Minute for Mission on Palm Sunday.
- Jen Jones will lead a Book Discussion on *Neighborhood Church* beginning Saturday.
- Session accepted, with regret, the resignation of elder Steve Doherty due to health issues.
- Session approved the “Penny War” fundraiser for the Preschool (March 20 - April 2).
- Session approved Bruce Bosselman, Bill Pannill, Margie Hartley, Joe Earhart and Linda Sandquist as members of the Interim Pastor Search Committee.
- Session approved the MIF completed by the Interim Pastor Search Committee and its submission to the Committee on Pastoral Transition at the Presbytery. The congregation will be apprised of this progress on Sunday.
- Session approved Mike Cunningham, Colleen Cash, Jen Jones, Anne Wood and Kevin Henkel as members of the CAT Team. Rev. Malcolm Brownlee will lead the application of the study through Holy Cow.
- Session approved the Clerk’s Statistical Report, as amended.
- Session approved Rev. Albert Connette as officiant at the funeral service for Ann Kline.
- Session approved providing remuneration and mileage for Moderator Rev. Sarah Wolf.
- All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer.

(Would that all the Session hoped and planned for had been able to be put in practice. Church services and special events have been cancelled and Preschool is closed. Committees have been unable to meet but at least they are in place, with their advisors, to act when the time is right.)





ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

In Isaiah 58, the author is addressing a people who have returned to Jerusalem, where the Temple—God’s house—was in shambles. I imagine it was a heartbreaking scene. And in that rubble, the prophet challenges the people not to rebuild the building or to restore their religious rituals, but to care for the hungry, the weak and the vulnerable—the prophet called the people to become the house of God. We are called to become, as Isaiah promised long ago, “repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in”.

Together, we become the household of God.

During this time of crisis, with the COVID-19 pandemic threatening, we are reminded that the most vulnerable in our midst suffer first, most and longest. One Great Hour of Sharing has, for over 70 years, supported the most vulnerable among us. Because of our support, the Church is able to deepen its commitment to serve. In the days ahead, staff of Self-Development of People, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be working with presbyteries to identify and support essential congregational ministries, especially in anti-poverty work. The Church’s response to the present crisis will begin with the most at-risk communities across the country and around the world, as well as those facing spikes of racism in response to this disease. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we extend shelter to those who have no place to stay, offer compassion to those who have pain—be it physical, emotional, or spiritual—and we set a feast, with God, for those who lack access to enough food to eat.

During these uncertain times, we depend on our Church, faith, family and God’s grace to see us through. Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. We are the Church, together.

**Let us pray:** Draw all people together, gracious God, and make us your house. Let our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing create a home and a wholeness for people in need, especially those suffering from the impacts of the current crisis, so that the whole human family will know your love. **Amen.**





## Music Notes



During this difficult time, we are so grateful for the presence of God in our lives. God's blessings and mercy bring comfort during this challenging time.

Please keep the family of Aileen Kennedy in your prayers as she has made her earthly departure. We are hoping that there will be a memorial service at FPC in the fullness of time.

With churches shuttered around the globe, we are fortunate to be able to connect with one another through phone calls, email and online. As many of you know, the Waynesboro Presbyterian Online Service was created to virtually meet the needs of Presbyterians in our community. April Cranford, Pastor at Westminster, has been assembling the weekly services with contributions from many of the churches in our area, including Westminster, Hermitage, Second and Smyrna, in addition to First. manifold thanks are due to "Captain" Colleen Cash for steering our church "vessel" in these challenging times and for sending out the link to the services each week, along with the corresponding bulletin.

We have been asked, and have agreed, to direct the music for the online services through June 10<sup>th</sup>. We will ask for contributions from various musicians in our community to include in each week's services. Roger will continue to play organ, piano and harpsichord (and sing!) and Max and Kimberlea will sing various components of the service. Alas, we will not gather with others to make music until Governor Northam's order is lifted. We look forward to the day when we can see one another again in person, perhaps even to shake hands or hug!

The month of April opens with Palm Sunday. First Pres will provide the offertory: *Hosanna* by William Mathias, the closing hymn: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* (Ellacombe) and the postlude: *Fanfare for Palm Sunday* by Antonio Soler. Roger will also provide the prelude and postlude for the Maundy Thursday Service.

First Pres will provide all the music for Easter Sunday. Two festive hymns, *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* and *This Day of Resurrection* will open and close the service. Additionally, Roger has created an organ-only version of the "Hallelujah" chorus from *Messiah* by Handel. It includes all the choral parts, so feel free to pull out your own score and sing along during the anthem on Easter Sunday! Roger will conclude the service, as he always does, with the *Toccata* from Symphony no. 5 by Widor.

For the Sunday after Easter, various musicians will play for the service, including Celia Daggy, whose contribution will be heard during the Offertory.

We are grateful to be able to share the gift of music during this unprecedented time. While we do not know exactly when we will be together again physically as a congregation, we can be sure that God's presence is always with us. Let us continue to lean on Him!

Blessings -  
Roger and Kimberlea

## WHERE ARE WE AT?

We're "on hold".

- Worship services are cancelled until further notice.
- The Preschool program is discontinued, while continuing to pay staff and not charging parents, until further notice.
- Rev. Sarah Wolf, Associate Pastor at Covenant Presbyterian in Staunton, has been appointed Moderator (to lead Session meetings.)
- Rev. Karen Allamon, Pastor of FPC in Staunton, has been appointed liaison to our Interim Search Committee. Our Ministry Information Form (MIF) has been approved and is entered on the Church Leadership Connection database. The committee had one meeting and contacted five candidates. However, the search is discontinued until after the coronavirus crisis is over.
- Rev. Malcolm Brownlee has been appointed to lead our CAT assessment. The first meeting of that committee was cancelled and is on hold until at least May 1.
- Members of our church have been involved in the online Sunday worship services organized by Rev. April Cranford of Westminster. The Daggy family has had a prominent part as well as Bruce Bosselman and Jen Jones. These services will continue so be sure to tune in. Colleen will remind you weekly of the link.
- Colleen is in the church a portion of everyday Monday-Thursday. She may be reached in the office at 949-8366 or, if need be, her cell (540) 241-5104.
- Call a friend! Or call and make a friend! Be a friend!

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Folks who are used to putting their envelopes in the weekly offering plate may be wondering the best way to continue to pay their pledge. Checks may be mailed to the office (mailing address is P.O. Box 877). They may be dropped off at the church (just ring the buzzer). Bills need to be paid during this time of inactivity; your cooperation is much appreciated.

Easter Sunday had been designated for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, the one PC(USA) supported by FPC each year. Money is needed to support this cause as well. You may write a check for that that offering, made out to FPC and so specified, and sent to the church. Or you may give online.



## A WORD OF PRAYER FOR THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

*Eternal God, sustainer, provider, God of all wisdom and knowledge,  
Our spirits are weary, our faith quivers, our minds get clouded by news of sickness and death,  
You know our thoughts before we express them, even the fears we dismiss, You know them,  
We cannot hide our feelings and worries from you.  
So, as we are, we come to You, O God, asking for wisdom, for clear minds and open hearts,  
for calm and assurance that through the crisis, You are present.  
Knowing that "the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought,  
but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."*

*We ask for wisdom and protection...  
For medical personnel, scientists, doctors, nurses and laboratory technicians,  
For those around the world considering current and other health crises,  
For health care personnel and caregivers.  
We lift them up to You.*

*We ask for clear minds and open hearts as people navigate daily lives...  
As closures, cancellations, and quarantines are enacted.  
As families gather in their homes, some caring for those who are sick.  
As we encounter neighbors in our neighborhoods, stores and pharmacies.*

*We pray for the sick, those who have lost or are at risk of losing jobs in the midst of this crisis,  
for those whose health or social services will be or have been affected,  
for those suffering the dire effects of this virus, locally and round the world.  
Illumine us, Holy Spirit. Show us in what ways we can be of help as we care for self and others.*

*We ask for calm, assurance, and strength.  
May we all remember that, in the midst of any crisis,  
Your grace reaches us,  
Your hope enlightens us,  
And Your love surrounds us all. Amen.*

(by the 223rd GA Co-Moderators, Ruling Elder Vilmarie Cintron-Oliveri  
and the Rev. Cindy Kohlmann - March 28, 2020)

*Be Still*  
AND KNOW  
THAT I AM GOD  
-PSALM 46:10

## Highlights of the 185th meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery

February 22, 2020 First Waynesboro Presbyterian Church  
Thank you, Glen Kirk and Westminster, for helping to host!

Worship included the installation of the new moderator, Ruling Elder Rick Comstock, the reading of the necrology and a sermon by the Rev. Bill Klein.

Rachel Crumley, pastor of Tuscarora Presbyterian Church, was thanked for her service as moderator and given a Celtic cross and a bag of goodies to relieve stress.

CCVT showed the video “When a Church Walks into a Bar” and had the Loch Willow Church share about their experiences with using the Church Assessment Tool (CAT).

CNCD updated the presbytery about the two new worshipping communities and invited the presbytery to listen to God’s nudge.

CPA responded to the questions from the previous presbytery meeting concerning investments.

CER shared a brief video of the Youth ski trip.

The Educational Hour was engaging with the Matthew 25 Bible Study led by Nancy Meehan Yao and Bronwen Boswell.

We welcomed The Rev. Betsy Stow to the presbytery and to her work as chaplain at Westminster – Canterbury. We commissioned Ruling Elder Susanne Taylor to be the CRE of the Burnt congregation and we welcomed Robert Vaughan to the presbytery and as the new pastor of the Romney congregation. Ordination and installation will be held on March 14, 2020.

We recognized the retirements of the Rev. Harold Tongen and the Rev. Teri Summers-Minette.

The offering taken during worship was \$1,263.82 and will be sent to PDA for Puerto Rico.

The Presbytery voted to concur with the Overture from Monmouth Presbytery concerning fossil fuels.

CMO had April Cranford speak about the Summerlee Kids crew mission group that is a recipient of a Moffett Grant and shared a video. The next trip is July 5-11.

Respectfully Submitted

Bronwen Boswell, Stated Clerk





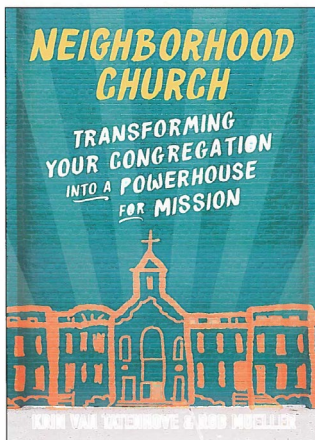
The Food Bank is still open twice a month.  
Donations Welcome!!!!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

On Hold until further notice



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN



Coffee and a book! TO BE RESCHEDULED



## UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2020-21

Once again First Presbyterian Church will offer financial support for the continuing education of worthy students in our community. Scholarships from the Church's Memorial Educational Fund are available for undergraduate, vocational training and nursing students. Some funds are available specifically for students pursuing teaching or religious careers. Applications will be available in the Church Office and on the Church website on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

A Scholarship Selection Committee selects recipients each year for varying awards depending on funding availability and the number of applications received. Scholarships are awarded as grants, not loans.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** The Selection Committee must **receive** completed applications and all support information from applicants no later than Monday, June 1, 2020. Applicants must also submit copies of their most recent high school or college transcripts with their applications. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

If you have questions, please email Holly Bennett at [hollybbennett@outlook.com](mailto:hollybbennett@outlook.com)



Our cross, shrouded in black, will be on site Good Friday  
Please come by with your flowers on Easter Morning.

## Building and Grounds Notes

Matthew 5:15: “Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.”

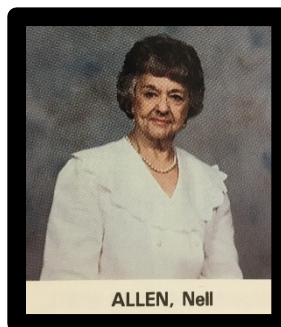
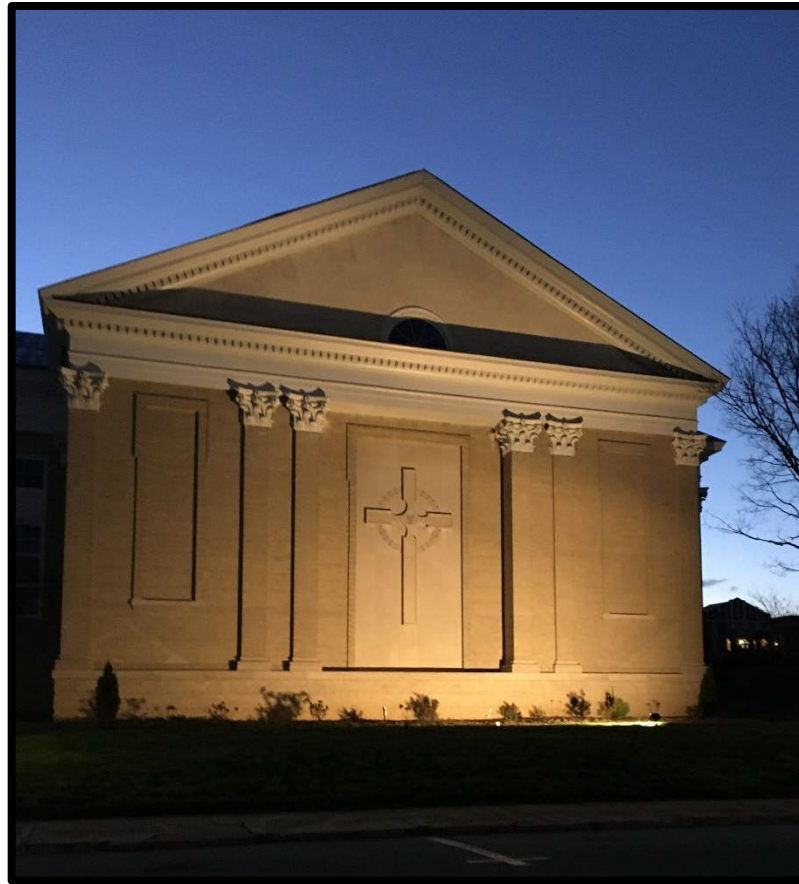
Most people enter the First Presbyterian Church Sunday School building and/or Sanctuary from 11<sup>th</sup> street side, so they rarely see the Wayne Avenue side. For many years overgrown holly trees encroached on the sidewalk and covered that Wayne Avenue side of First Presbyterian church, thus hiding the masonry cross.

The holly bushes were removed last year and small plants have been placed in the space, so the Church Sanctuary east wall is now visible.

The Celtic Cross as well as the Corinthian architecture features are illuminated for everyone to view from Wayne Avenue. Hopefully, as you adhere to the current travel guidelines, you will be able to walk or drive past our church after dusk and your spirits will be lifted by the church’s new bright face.

Betsy Ruehl pointed out that this Cross was a gift from Nell Allen in memory of her husband Harold. Our church was destroyed by a fire May 3, 1983. “Fire swept through the sanctuary, gutting the entire 72-year-old structure in less than three hours”<sup>1</sup>. This cross was one of many generous gifts provided during the reconstruction of the church.

<sup>1</sup>From First Presbyterian Church Booklet in April 1984 “Now, A New Beginning in a New Sanctuary”



## “YOU CAN COUNT ON IT”

John 14: 1-3

Text: vs. 19 - “Because I live, you also will live.”

“I am going to prepare a place for you...because I live, you shall live also.” What a glorious promise to all believers ~ the promise that what we call death will not have the final word over what He calls life. This is the promise and glory of Easter. Maybe I should just stop, right there. No such luck! I want us to spend a few minutes digging into the meaning of this glorious promise, in hopes that it may become more meaningful than ever, for each one of us.

Way back in the Old Testament Job cried out: “If a man die, shall he live again?” And the answer to that question came from an empty grave ~ “Because I live, you shall live also.” What a glorious promise to hear once again, on an Easter morning. Maybe there is something true about Easter, after all. True, the grave is not the end. True, death was never meant to be the final word. But how does this truth really come home to you and me, on this Easter morning? How can we be sure, really sure it’s true?

Just over the mountain in Charlottesville, a professor has done a lot of study and research on “Life after Life,” and has gathered some scientific data to back his claims. And he has put all this in a book. Yet most of those who have read this book, and heard his reason say, haltingly, “I don’t now whether I can believe all that, or not.” Look at what that is saying, at what you and I say, or at least feel, on this side of the grave, on this side of our own personal experience of death. The question of what is beyond death still gets answered by what you believe ~ it still remains a matter of faith. It remains for each one of us, even on Easter morning.

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, in his book The Positive Power of Jesus Christ, tells of being invited to a luncheon by Lord Thomson of Fleet, in the sumptuous dining room of “The London Times”, a newspaper owned by Lord Thomson. There were a number of editors and writers there, along with some prominent businessmen. The conversations ranged widely, until suddenly, in the midst of much good-natured banter, Thomson said: “Dr. Peale, I am an old man, and one of these days I’m going to die.” The room became silent. “I want to know,” continued Lord Thomson, “Is there an afterlife?” After making sure that the question was asked seriously, Dr. Peale responded: “Lord Thomson, I believe in the promises of the Bible. But beyond the Biblical is the evidence of intelligence, and common sense.” And then he proceeded to share a parable about a prenatal baby tucked beneath his mother’s loving heart, a parable discussed by Dr. Paul Eckel in a sermon preached at Massanetta in the 1986 Bible Conference, copies of which were mailed out by Massanetta to a lot of folks. I want to share that parable with you, with the knowledge that my source is those two fine ministers, but I don’t believe either of them would claim to be the originator of this parable. One of my Seminary professors many years ago told us, “Graze where you want, but come forth with your own milk.” I have grazed in their fields, but please don’t blame either of them for my milk!

Every single one of us began life in the watery, warm world of a woman’s womb, in the beginning being smaller than a grain of sand. But in God’s mercy and planning the body, the mind, the spirit, the emotions ~ all of the vast potentialities of a human being were hidden there. Then cells began to multiply, and we were gradually, miraculously being formed into a baby. As a fetus we were secure in that womb, adapted completely to that environment. Had we been aware of it then, the prospect of birth would have terrifying. What could it mean to leave the womb for some “other world”? What could some “other world” possibly be like? In the womb, we lived without breathing. How could we possibly live by breathing? In the womb, we lived in water...how could we possibly survive in air? In the womb we lived without light. How could we possibly endure all that brightness? Make no mistake about it, being born out of that womb would certainly have seemed like death. Of course, that unborn child could not know that it was necessary to leave the womb, that the womb’s only purpose was to

prepare us for that “other world”. And we were being prepared. In the darkness, eyes were being formed for light we had never seen. Ears were being fashioned for sounds we had never heard. Even in water, lungs were being formed for oxygen we had never breathed. Brain cells were being readied for thoughts we had never had. Isn’t it fantastic ~ within the womb we were being prepared for that bigger world on the other side of birth.

Listen to the way Dr. Peale puts it: “Suppose someone came to this unborn baby and said, ‘You cannot stay here long. In a few months you will be born, or as you think of it, die out of your present state.’ The baby might stubbornly say, ‘I don’t want to leave here. I’m warm, loved, and happy. I don’t want to be what you call born, or what I call die out of this place.’ But he is born. He does die out of his present life. And what does he find? He feels beneath him strong, loving arms. He looks up into a beautiful face, tender with love, the face of his mother. He is welcomed, cared for, and says, ‘How foolish I was. This is a wonderful place to which I have come.’”

Now consider this ... what if this world in which you and I are living now, is another womb, a larger womb, preparing us as did our own mother’s womb, for something beyond? What if right now we are being fashioned for another world, as different from this one as this one is different from our own mother’s body? It starts you thinking, doesn’t it?

Paul Eckel, in his sermon, suggested that the structure of this world itself seems to whisper, “There is something beyond.” A child first senses this when learning to count ~ discovering very quickly that there is no place to stop. There is always one number beyond the last one named. Or, take the human ear ~ we know that the human ear can hear only a small fraction of the sounds around us. And the human eye ~ we can see the gorgeous colors of the rainbow, but no more ~ and there is more, more more ~ infra-red at one end of the scale, and ultra-violet at the other, and God only know what else. It is humbling, isn’t it, that with our unaided natural sense equipment, most of this world’s sounds and sights are beyond us?

The point is ~ and make sure you realize this ~ the point is that we have the equipment built into us right here and now, to know that we are missing so much ~ equipment like our untiring curiosity to know more, simply because we sense there is so much more to know; equipment like our sensitive spirit; equipment like our believing hearts that hold firmly to things which simply cannot be proved in any ordinary ways. Paul put it, in his 1st letter to the Corinthian Christians (2:9), “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for them that love Him”, or, not at least in this earthly womb, at any rate.

Listen to the way Dr. Peale moves on in the parable, following the birth, or from the perspective of the baby, the death, and finding himself in a wonderful place. Peale adds, “Then he goes on to enjoy the delights of childhood. He grows into youth with its excitement and romance. He marries and knows the love of his children. The years pass, with the strength of manhood, the achievement of middle age: the joy and wonderment of life are his. Then he becomes an old man. His step slows. Someone says, ‘You are going to die, or as we call it, be born out of this place into another.’ And he might argue: ‘But I don’t want to die. I have my loved ones. I love this world ~ the dawn and sunset, the moon and starlight. I like to feel the warmth of the fire on my face when cold weather comes ~ and hear the crunch of snow beneath my feet on a cold winter’s evening. I don’t want to leave this world. I don’t want to die.’”

But in the natural course he does die. What happens then? Is God, the Creator, suddenly going to change his nature? Can we not assume that he will once again feel loving arms beneath him, and once again look up into a strong, beautiful face, more lovely even than that first face he saw so long ago? Won’t he soon be exclaiming, “Why this is wonderful. Here I want to remain forever.” Does this not make sense?

The reality of Easter rests on our belief, on our faith. For when all is said and done, Christians have no neat theory that proves we live after we die. All we have is a Lord, who did it. That's all. He simply did it. And now He comes to any who will put their faith in Him, and He says quite specifically: "Because I live, you shall live also ... I am preparing a place for you."

What a promise! Does it not remind you of an earlier time, when we left our mother's womb, and came into this world? Maybe we were fearful then, as many of are now. But what were our first sensations? Strong arms beneath us, and loving eyes looking down on us. There was warmth, and nourishment, and gentleness, and love. Someone knew we were coming. And they had prepared a place for us. Surely if God was so meticulously careful about our entry to this world, He will not be careless about our entry into the next. "Because I live, you shall live also ... I a preparing a place for you." That is the promise of Christ, and you can count on it. For that is the promise of Easter. Believe it ... live it ... share it. For our Lord is risen indeed. And because he lives, all of us who believe, and trust in him, shall live also, eternally.

You can count on it. Hallelujah. Amen.

(Easter Sunday Sermon - April 3, 1988 - by Dr. J. Whitner Kennedy,  
First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA)

This sermon has been circulating for years by popular request. Not many folks have realized it was an Easter sermon as it has been a comfort during times of sorrow. In the absence of a pastor, we offer his uplifting sermon as a Message of Hope some 32 years later. The Rev. Dr. Kennedy retired from First Presbyterian Church after 17 years as pastor in 1993 and passed away December 2016 at the age of 87. His beloved Aileen followed on March 22, 2020.



To the family of Aileen Kennedy who died on March 22, 2020.



April 2 Ann Bryant  
April 3 Susan Johnson  
April 8 Ann Nelson  
April 10 Cynthia Hoover  
April 23 Cary Bennett  
April 28 Mary Scott Miller



### Prayers for Health and Other Concerns:

The Legacy: Eloise Morris

Shenandoah Nursing Home: Rubye Schwab

Summit Square: Ruth Quillen, Lillian Hryshkanych

Home: Dick Huff, Nancy Garber, Mary Ultee, Edie Lawrence, Steve Doherty

Friends and Family: Kaiser family (Anne Harris), Andy & Jean Robeson, Wanda Braden, Lucy Colbert, Charlie Fairchilds, Steve Dowdy (Cunninghams), Nancy Vilain, Chris Davenport (Jen Jones), Danny Smith (Nancy Hypes), Jennifer & Charlotte Sergeant (Kathy Brown), Emily Bardeen (Sandi Henderson), Sara Verwymeren (Hashagens), Kathy Doyle (Cindy & Rodger Doyle), Peter Johnson, Lawrence Maddox, Joan Blazek, Glenn Fields, Sr. (Jen Jones), Jim & Pat Lewis (Sandy Bellamy), Bill & Ruth Metzler (Joyce Tipton), Grayson Coleman, Tony Poplin (Colleen Cash), Marianna Callaway (Ruth Kelley)

Military: Jeremiah Henderson, Carson Craig

Missionaries: Elmarie & Scott Parker, PC(USA) Regional Liaisons to Iraq, Syria & Lebanon

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**Layout**—Colleen Cash

**Reporters**—Members of the Congregation & Staff

***COLUMNS*** Mailing List

Anyone unable to pick up the monthly COLUMNS at the Church the beginning of each month may request that the newsletter be mailed to them. Please remember to give your new address to the Church Office when you move. We do not want you to miss any of the Church news. Just contact the Church Office (949-8366 or [church@firstpresway.com](mailto:church@firstpresway.com))

*Sermons, bulletins and many Columns articles can be found on the church website: [firstpresway.org](http://firstpresway.org)*

**Deadlines:** ***COLUMNS:*** 20<sup>th</sup> of the month    **Bulletin:**  
Wednesday

**April Calendar**

Thursday, April 9  
2-4 PM    Food Bank

Thursday, April 23  
2-4 PM    Food Bank

**Mailing Address**

P. O. Box 877  
Waynesboro, VA 22980

**Phone**

540.949.8366

**Fax**

540.949.5750

**E-mail**

[church@firstpresway.com](mailto:church@firstpresway.com)

**Website**

[www.firstpresway.org](http://www.firstpresway.org)

**Church Office Hours**

Monday-Wednesday

8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Thursday

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Administrative Assistant**

Mrs. Colleen Cash  
[ccash@firstpresway.com](mailto:ccash@firstpresway.com)

**Preschool Director**

Mr. Thomas Sheffey  
[preschool@firstpresway.com](mailto:preschool@firstpresway.com)

**Director of Music**

Mr. Roger Daggy  
[firstpreswaymusic@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreswaymusic@gmail.com)

**Music Associate**

Mrs. Kimberlea Daggy  
[firstpreswaymusic@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreswaymusic@gmail.com)

**Audio/Visual Technician**

Mr. Craig Cavanaugh

**Maintenance Technician**

Mr. Michael Griffith

**Custodian**

Mrs. Caroleia Strandberg

**Child Care Attendants**

Nate & Karalyn Rudin

*Sunday services are posted on the link below; bulletins can be found on our church webpage.*

*We are thankful to all those that make this worship service possible.*

<https://soundcloud.com/user-769613967/waynesboro-presbyterian-virtual-worship-3-29-20>