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THE COLUMNS

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA

**April 2025, Volume 63, Issue 4**

*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.*

*15  Toward evening the disciples approached him. “We’re out in the country and it’s getting*

*late. Dismiss the people so they can go to the villages and get some supper.”*

*16  But Jesus said, “There is no need to dismiss them. You give them supper.”*

*17  “All we have are five loaves of bread and two fish,” they said.*

*18-21  Jesus said, “Bring them here.” Then he had the people sit on the grass. He took the*

*five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the*

*bread to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to the congregation. They all ate*

*their fill. They gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. About five thousand were fed.*

*Matthew 14:15-21*

*When in doubt, always quote scripture. This is not one of the rules I have painstakingly collected over the years,*

*but perhaps it should be. Last month, we began with insights into basketball; for May, we are diving back into*

*the New Testament for illumination.*

*We are conditioned, I think, to look at the miraculous as magical, the theological equivalent of alchemy. Just as*

*the medieval alchemist sought to turn lead into gold, and thus enrich themselves without labor, we look at*

*miracles at least in part, as labor-saving plot devices: healing without the effort of treatment; gifts that eliminate*

*the need for impossible choices; rescue that makes of us passive recipients of grace. But, in the words of yet*

*another of my rules, God is not a magician; what we call miracles are signs of God at work in our midst - and*

*God hates to work alone.*

*In the feeding of the multitude, the disciples recognize a need - the crowd is getting hungry and the day is*

*mostly gone. This is a real problem, they know, but the best they can come up with is to send the crowds*

*back to town, where they might find some supper. But Jesus has something else in mind; not just pushing*

*the problem down the road, but actually doing something about the hunger of the people. He asks what*

*food is available, and is told, 5 rolls and 2 cooked fish - the lunch of a well-prepared young man. Jesus*

*then does the miraculous, but the miracle isn&#39;t magic- Jesus does not make everyone feel full, or have*

*manna fall from the heavens. The miracle happens through the work of the disciples. It is the disciples*

*who organize the people, getting them to sit down in an orderly fashion; they who oversee the distribution*

*of the loaves and fishes, making sure everyone is fed; even making sure the leftovers are collected. And*

*that, friends, leads us to Rule #10:*

Dear members and friends of First Presbyterian Church,

As we approach Easter together, I hope and pray that your Lenten journey has been meaningful, and I commend to you the schedule of Holy Week worship services below.

On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, you are invited to worship in the sanctuaries of two of our Better Together congregations: Hermitage on Maundy Thursday, and Smyrna on Good Friday. Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services will be held in our sanctuary.

Grace & peace,

Samantha

**Holy Week worship schedule**

**Palm Sunday - Sunday, April 13th**

Worship at 11:00 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 17th**

Worship at 6:00 pm

\*Hermitage Presbyterian Church

**Good Friday - Friday, April 18th**

Worship at 6:00 pm

\*Smyrna Presbyterian Church

**Easter Sunday - Sunday, April 20th**

Worship at 11:00 a.m.



**APRIL MUSIC NOTES**

This month, we experience the totality of Christianity: Jesus’s ministry, His passion and, finally, the joy of His resurrection. The music during the Lenten and Easter services reflects the journey we take with our Lord.

We share communion the first week of April, and the choir will sing an anthem about the Last Supper, *At the Table of the Lord,* by Jay Althouse (b. 1951). The anthem is one of more than 800 choral works by the resident of Wake Forest, North Carolina, whose *I Hear America Singing,* was performed at the inauguration of President Barack Obama in 2009.

Palm Sunday falls on 13 April. The beginning of Holy Week features music specifically for the day, including *Hosannas* by William Mathias (1934-1992) and Christian Gregor (1723-1801). Mathias, who was born in Wales, composed scores of works, including *Let the People Praise Thee, O God* for the 1981 royal wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Gregor was born in what is now Poland and became a member of the Moravian church as a teenager. The composer and organist was eventually consecrated a bishop. Gregor composed hundreds of works, many of which were included in the Moravian church’s 1779 hymnal and 1784 chorale book.

We celebrate the joy of Easter on 20 April. *The Strife is O’er* will open our celebration of the Risen Lord. The text, originally in Latin, Finita iam sunt proelia (Now the battle is over), was published in 1695 as part of a collection of German Jesuit hymns. Almost two hundred years later, pastor Francis Pott translated the text into English, which was published in 1861 in the first Anglican hymnal, *Hymns Ancient and Modern.* The music was composed by Melchior Vulpius (1570-1615), who included the tune in his volume of hymns *Ein Schon Geistlich Gesangbuch* (A Beautiful Sacred Songbook) in 1609.

The anthem for Easter Sunday was composed by Anne Herring (b. 1945). She is a largely self-taught composer who wrote *The Easter Song* in 1971. According to the composer, as she sat in front of the piano, she prayed, “You know, Father, I would really like to have a present.” Herring said that the Lord answered with *The Easter Song*.

The service will conclude with the final movement of the *Symphony no. 5 in f, Op. 42, no. 1,* by Charles-Marie Widor. The Toccata is the French composer’s most famous piece, played at the conclusion of scores of services, from feast days to wedding ceremonies.

Our Sanctuary will once again host concerts in the month of April. Roger will present a First Friday Organ Concert on Friday 4 April at 12:15. The Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra will play its final concert of the season on the last Sunday of the month, 27 April, at 3pm. All are cordially invited to both.

May your journey through Holy Week bring you to the triumph of Easter!

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy

A logo with flowers and music notes

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**MISSION/OUTREACH FEBRUARY 2025**

* Ordered and received food from Blue Ridge Area Food Bank February 11 and 25. Volunteers assembled 20 pantry boxes for each order.
* Maintained temperature logs for refrigerators and freezers. Defrosted and cleaned refrigerators.
* Food Bank held February 6, 13 and 27. Closed on the 20th because of weather.
* Purchased bread and margarine for Food Bank weekly. Egg prices out of our budget.
* Updated weekly shopping list for extra options.
* Completed pantry inventory and report: Served 45 individuals and 20 households.
* Collected cereal for Food Bank.
* Attended two in-service meetings: 1) Assisting clients with SNAP applications on February 10 and 2) Safe Food Handling on February 18.
* Next Disciples’ Kitchen is March 31.

. --Cynthia Hoover, Mission Chair

**COLLECTING *PERSONAL CARE ITEMS* FOR FPC FOOD BANK**

**COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS for**

**WAYNESBORO HIGH SCHOOL FOOD BANK**

**Healthy snacks like granola bars and grab-and-go items**



**HIGHLIGHTS of the**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY MEETING**

**February 25, 2025 – via Zoom**

After the worship service, those elders who had died the previous year were remembered by the reading of the necrology report.

The new moderator for the year, Debra Fitzgerald O’Connell, Ruling Elder from Tinkling Spring Church, was installed.

Mark Dewey, candidate from our Presbytery who will be ordained on March 8, was introduced. He has received a call as a chaplain with UVA medical.

Retired pastor Gary Cecil and his wife, Shelia Palmer, were welcomed to the Presbytery.

After the second reading of minimum salary for new calls, the motion passed.

The Session of Union PC in Churchville asked for an Administrative Committee to be formed for the purpose of helping them dissolve the congregation and dispose of their property.

The Presbytery approved eleven of the thirteen proposed amendments from the General Assembly to change the Book of Order. The final two, 24-A and 24-C, will be discussed and voted upon in May.

The next Presbytery meeting will be Tuesday, May 20, in person at Woodstock PC.

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Session held a Stated Meeting on March 18, 2025.

* The 2024 Session Minutes of FPC were approved by Presbytery.
* Motion: The Letter of Transfer from St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Roanoke for Janet Shaner was accepted. Janet is now a member of FPC.
* Commissioner Jean Hashagen reported on the Zoom Presbytery meeting on February 25. (Highlights reported elsewhere.)
* Session finalized Budget Letter and financial expenditures.
* Mission/Outreach Report provided (published elsewhere).
* P&M: The heat in the sanctuary has been regulated. The Preschool door has been fixed. Hot water heater in the kitchen has been replaced. The smoke detector in the ceiling of the narthex was vandalized. It was suggested a camera be installed in that area.
* Over 30 participants are expected for the “Love Your Neighbor” program in the Barksdale Room on March 20.
* Rev. Coggins, Betsy Ruehl and Jean Hashagen attended the “Better Together” planning meeting on March 9 at Westminster PC.
* FPC will participate in 6:00 p.m. “Better Together” church services Maundy Thursday at Hermitage PC and Good Friday at Smyrna PC (April 17 & 18).
* Rev. Coggins will participate in the interment service for Joan Berry in Culpeper Cemetery on March 28.
* All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The next Stated Session Meeting will be April 8.

--Betsy Ruehl, Clerk of Session

**HOLY WEEK TIMELINE: From Palm Sunday to the Resurrection**

**THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT**

**OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH**

While biblical scholars debate the exact order of events during Holy Week,

the timeline below represents an approximate outline of the significant

happenings of the most holy days on the Christian calendar.

Follow along the steps of Jesus Christ, exploring the major events that occurred each day.

**Day 1: Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday**

On the Sunday before his death, Jesus began his trip to Jerusalem. Nearing the village of Bethphage, He sent two of his disciples ahead, telling them to look for a donkey and its unbroken colt and bring them to Him. Then Jesus sat on the young donkey and slowly, humbly, made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, fulfilling the ancient prophecy in Zechariah 9:9. The crowds welcomed Him by waving palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

Jesus and his disciples spent the night in Bethany, about two miles east of Jerusalem.

(Jesus’ triumphal entry is recorded in Matt 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44 & John 12:12-19.)

**Day 2: Jesus Clears the Temple on Monday**

The following morning Jesus returned with His disciples to Jerusalem. Along the way, He cursed a fig tree because it had failed to bear fruit. When Jesus arrived at the Temple, he found the courts full of corrupt money changers. He overturned their tables and cleared the Temple, saying, “The Scriptures declare, My Temple will be a house of prayer, but you have turned it into a den of thieves”. On Monday evening Jesus again stayed in Bethany.

(Monday’s events are recorded in Matt 21:12-22, Mark 11:15-19, Luke 19:45-48 & John 2:13-17.)

**Day 3: Jesus Goes to the Mount of Olives on Tuesday**

Jesus and his disciples returned to Jerusalem. On their way, they passed the withered fig tree, and Jesus spoke to His companions about the importance of faith. Back at the Temple, religious leaders were upset at Jesus for establishing Himself as a spiritual authority. They organized an ambush with the intent to place Him under arrest. But Jesus evaded their traps and pronounced harsh judgment on them.

That afternoon Jesus left the city and went with his disciples to the Mount of Olives, which sits due east of the Temple and overlooks Jerusalem. Here Jesus gave the Olivet Discourse, an elaborate prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the age. He speaks, as usual, in parables, using symbolic language about end times events.

Scripture indicates that this Tuesday was also the day Judas Iscariot negotiated with the Sanhedrin, the rabbinical court of ancient Israel, to betray Jesus. (Matt 26:14-16)

**Day 4: Holy Wednesday**

The Bible doesn’t say what the Lord did the Wednesday of Holy Week. Scholars speculate that after two exhausting days in Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples spent the day resting in Bethany in anticipation of Passover.

**Day 5: Passover and Last Supper on Maundy Thursday**

Jesus sent Peter and John ahead to the Upper Room in Jerusalem to prepare for the Passover Feast. That evening, after sunset, Jesus washed His disciples’ feet. By performing this humble act of service, Jesus demonstrated by example how His disciples should serve the church.

Then Jesus shared the feast of Passover. During this Last Supper, Jesus established the Lord’s Supper, or Communion, instructing his followers to continually remember His sacrifice by sharing in the bread and wine. (Luke 33:19-20)

Later Jesus and his disciplines went to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed in agony to God the Father. Late that evening in Gethsemane, Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by Judas Iscariot and arrested by the Sanhedrin. He was taken to the home of Caiaphas, the High Priest, where the whole council of the Sanhedrin had gathered to begin making their case against our Lord.

In the early morning hours, as Jesus’ trial was getting underway, Peter denied knowing his Master three time before the rooster crowed.

(Thursday’s events are recorded in Matt 26:17-75, Mark 14:12-72, Luke 22:7-62 and John 13:1-38)

**Day 6: Crucifixion, Death, and Burial on Good Friday**

According to Scripture, Judas Iscariot, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus, was overcome with remorse and hanged himself early Friday morning.

Meanwhile, before the third hour (9 a.m.), Jesus endured the shame of false accusations, condemnation, mockery, beatings and abandonment. After multiple unlawful trials, He was sentenced to death by crucifixion, one of the most horrible and disgraceful methods of capital punishment known at the time.

Before Christ was led away, soldiers spit on Him, tormented and mocked Him, and pierced Him with a crown of thorns. Then Jesus carried his own cross to Calvary and was mocked again and insulted as Roman soldiers nailed him to the wooden cross. Jesus spoke seven final statements from the cross. His first words were “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” His last word were, “Father into your hands I commit my spirit.”

About the ninth hour (3 p.m.) Jesus breathed his last breath and died.

By 6 p.m. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus’ body down from the cross and laid it in a tomb.

(Friday’s events are recorded in Matt 27:1-62, Mark 15:1-47, Luke 22:63-23:56 & John 18:28-19:37.)

**Day 7: Saturday in the Tomb**

Jesus’ body lay in its tomb, where it was guarded by Roman soldiers throughout the day, which was the Sabbath. When the Sabbath ended at 6 p.m. Christ’ body was ceremonially treated for burial with spices purchased by Nicodemus: “He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus’ body with the spice in long sheets of linen cloth.” (John 19:39-40)

Nicodemus, like Joseph of Arimathea, was a member of the Sanhedrin, the court that had condemned Jesus Christ to death. For a time both men had lived as secret followers of Jesus, afraid to make a public profession of faith because of their prominent positions in the Jewish community.

(Saturday’s events are recorded in Matt 27:62-66, Mark 16:1, Luke 23:56 & John 18:40.)

**Day 8: Resurrection Sunday**

Early Sunday morning several women went to the tomb and discovered that the large stone covering the entrance had been rolled away. An angel announced: “Don’t be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen.” (Matthew 28-5-6.)

(Sunday’s events are recorded in Matt 28:1-13, Mark 16:1-14, Luke 24:1-49 & John 20:1-23.)

On the day of his resurrection, Jesus Christ made at least five appearances. Mark’s Gospel says the first person to see him was Mary Magdalene. Jesus also appeared to Peter, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later that day to all of the disciples except Thomas, while they were gathered in a house for prayer.

(by Mary Fairchild – writer, editor and full-time minister)





**Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed**

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**

**Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025**

Love and justice are at the heart of our Presbyterian tradition. God’s immense love for us is the reason for our very existence. And as Christians, we are called by Jesus to show and share that love by ensuring justice to all people.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way Presbyterians come together with millions of other Christians to share God’s love with people experiencing need.

Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement as well as community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36% of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32%.

Please give what you can to One Great Hour of Sharing. Checks may be sent to the Church Office or deposited in the collection plate in the narthex.

As we always say – When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



First Friday Organ Concert on Friday April 4, at 12:15.

The Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Concert on Sunday April 27, at 3pm.



We can’t believe it’s April already!! We missed our March *Columns* due to illness in the preschool, but we are all feeling much better now!! I will do a little recap of missed things. The children got to take their field trip to the Post Office and mail their Valentines back home to their parents. On their walk a police officer stopped to direct traffic for them to walk across the street; they REALLY enjoyed that part!! Our Valentine’s Date Night was a huge hit as always. The parents got to enjoy some quiet time together as we got to spend some time with the children playing games, watching movies and just having some extra fun time with them, which is always the best! Spirit week has been a huge hit with all the preschoolers showing their love for different characters as well as sports teams.

In March, we celebrated Dr. Seuss “Read Across America” and participated in another spirit week to honor Dr. Seuss and his fun books. Ms. Lorene’s 4-year-old class made a Leprechaun trap which had no success at catching him….but OH BOY, did he leave them a mess to come into that Monday morning!! Mrs. Lynda’s class has completed charts on brushing their teeth and brought them back to show healthy hygiene at home with parents.

A group of kids sitting at a table

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of children sitting on the floor

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A table with a colorful paper caterpillar

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of children holding papers

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**LITURGISTS**

A drawing of a book with a cross and a sun

AI-generated content may be incorrect.6 – Betsy Ruehl

13 – Jo Pannill

20 – Bill Pannill

27 – Jean Hashagen

**BIRTHDAYS**



1 Elizabeth Miller

2 Ann Bryant

3 Susan Johnson

8 Ann Nelson

10 Cynthia Hoover

23 Cary Bennett

28 Mary Scott Miller

***Lorain Kent at the age of 13 joined First***

***Presbyterian Church on February 23, 1936.***

***At a youthful 102, she resides at Summit Square.***

An old person smiling for the camera

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***PRAYER FOR EASTER SUNDAY***

*Living God, on the first day of the week you brought to birth a new creation through the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. Fill us with the hope and joy of new beginnings, so that we may share the good news of your liberating, life-giving power with all the world; through Christ our Savior, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, now and always. Amen*

**Remember to bring flowers on Easter morning for the Cross**

***PRESBYTERIANS BETTER TOGETHER*  BIBLE STUDY**

Once a week, members of the local *Presbyterians Better Together* churchesgather for an hour of Bible Study. John Tindall, Director of Christian Education at Westminster Presbyterian Church, leads the discussion. Interesting, challenging, educational, varied – but never boring – and no homework!

Interested parties are welcome to join in any time. Mondays at 1:00 on the following schedule: 1st – First Pres, 2nd – Second Pres, 3rd – Hermitage, 4th – Finley Memorial in Stuarts Draft, 5th – Smyrna. Try it, you’ll like it!

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**UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2025-26**

Scholarships from the Church’s Memorial Educational Fund are available for undergraduate, vocational training and nursing students. Some funds are available specifically for students pursing teaching or religious careers. Applications will be available in the Church Office and on the Church website on Wednesday, March 26.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

The Selection Committee must receive completed applications and all support information from applicants no later than Wednesday April 30, 2025. 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

**CHURCH OFFICERS:**

Treasurer – Colleen Cash

Members of Session - Jean Hashagen, Betsy Ruehl

Cynthia Hoover, Mike Cunningham and Bob Miller



Shenandoah Nursing Home: Nancy Garber

Summitt Square: Ruth Quillen

Home: Mary Ultee, Mary Ann Maupin, Warner Sandquist, Mike & Cathy Cunningham

Friends and Family: Bill Bromley, Jean Custen, Sally McNeel, Col. Stuart Roberts (Mark Henderson), Carolyn Hedrick-Williams, Mac & Judy Watts (Colleen Cash), Betsy Boswell (Curry), Shane Bennett (Bennett).

Military: Carson Craig, Michael Little



Our sympathies to Bruce Bosselman and Kevin Henkel at the death of Kevin’s mother Ada on March 25.



Tuesday, April 1

6-10 pm Symphony Practice Fellowship

Thursday, April 3

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

Friday, April 4

12:15 pm First Friday Organ Concert

Sunday, April 6

11 am Worship

Monday, April 7

1 pm Better Together Bible Study First Presbyterian

Tuesday, April 8

2:30 pm Session Meeting Room 212

6-10 pm Symphony Practice Fellowship

Thursday, April 10

2-4 pm Food Bank

Sunday, April 13

11 am Worship

Monday, April 14

1 pm Better Together Bible Study Second Presbyterian

Tuesday, April 15

6-10 pm Symphony Practice Fellowship

Wednesday. April 16

6-10 pm Symphony Dress

Thursday, April 17 Maundy Thursday

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

Friday, April 18 Good Friday

Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday

11 am Worship

Monday, April 21 OFFICE CLOSED

1 pm Better Together Bible Study Hermitage

Tuesday, April 22

2:30 pm Session Room 212

6 -10 pm Symphony Practice-Fellowship

Thursday, April 23

6-7 pm Food Bank

Sunday, April 27

11 pm Worship

3 pm Concert

Monday, April 28

1 pm Better Together Bible Study Finley Memorial