

THE UNITED CHURCH

PRESBYTERIAN — AMERICAN BAPTIST

March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

PRELUDE: “*Erbam dich mein, O Herre Gott BWV 721*” by J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

OUR PREPARATION

Focus of the day: We need to recognize our insufficiency and depend on Jesus to heal and restore.

INTROIT: (11:00) “His Name is Wonderful” (Hymn #87)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Though storms rage around me, I will clothe myself with the whole armor of God.

People: I will fasten the belt of truth about my waist.

Leader: I will place strength and determination as my shoes to aid me in my ministry and mission for God.

People: I will take up the shield of faith with which I shall defend against evil ways.

Leader: I will pray diligently at all times, offering prayers and supplication to God.

People: The helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit will accompany me on my journey.

Leader: Be strong in the Lord who provides for your every need.

All: I place my confidence and trust in God always. AMEN.

*HYMN: #203 “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” (11:00 Sunday School Palm Processional)

CCLI Song #7101236, Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

*OPENING PRAYER: In the beauty of this place, we have come to pray, to worship, to receive healing and hope. We come from the struggles and triumphs of the week, needing to feel the presence of God. Lord, be with us this day. Cause us to rejoice that you have provided a place where we may gather to talk of your presence and love; to sing your praises; and to be empowered to go forth to serve you. We pray this in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray....Our Father... (using debts and debtors...) Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*GLORIA PATRI: #807

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 11:1-3 (page 1191) {A.B. page 1348}

ANTHEM: (11:00) “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty” by Gilbert Martin

The United Church Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: Deb Marshall

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 2:1-10 (page 1156) {A.B. page 1296}

Sermon

“Power Over Evil”

(Mark 9:14–29)

Pastor Wade Allen

OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

*HYMN: #224 “Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know”

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PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY: *Jesus, Remember Me*

*DOXOLOGY: #809

*HYMN: #204 “All Glory, Laud and Honor”

CCLI Song #29509, Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “*Epilogue on ‘St. Theodulph’*” by Healey Willan

* *indicates an invitation to stand for those who are able and comfortable doing so.*

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of Carole Dinmore, who passed away on March 17. Carole was a friend and regular visitor from Ferris Hills. Please keep all of her friends and family in your prayers during this difficult time.

The Palm Crosses are given today in memory of Henry and Marguerite Prull by their grandchildren, Tamara, Heather (Ross), and David Prull II.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Health concerns: Maryanne Fox (friend of Ardelle Bigos), Nora Murphy (newborn friend of DiCicco family), Doug Cubbison (Connie Frye's brother), Edwin Gregory (friend of Royal Purdy), Tom Fortunato (Bill's brother), Erik Keating (son of Al & Dawn Rossi), Kiana Rae Moore (MacKenzie Brown's cousin), Louise Huck, Catherine Kurzdorfer (Adam Thorman's mother), Carolyn Verspoor, Marcus (friend of Sandi DiCicco), Garrett Nayer (nephew of Karen Gardner), Denise Loy (friend of Kory Massey), David Sanford, Jovannie Ramirez (Karen Roaix's grandson), Steve Sedlock (Nancy Tharp's brother), Clancy Cragle (Michelle's grandfather), the Herin Family (relatives of Kathie Meredith), David Crowe, Jack Schermond

Cancer: Dylan Smith (CA senior, friend of many), John Tornow (friend of Elaine Allen), Susan Hennessy (Jen Eveleigh's sister), Rich Crowley (friend of Steve & Beth Smythe), Tom & Monica Yurik (friends of Bruce & Deb Gardner), Deb Dawson (Steve Smythe's niece), Sasha (friend of Megan French), Roderick Simonds (father of Natalie Clark), Rob Stults (cousin of Wade & Christy Allen), Dawn Miller, David Pagoda (friend of Eveleigh family), Jim Davis (Scott's father), Jackie Crego (Stan & Evey Wright's daughter), Stephen Carges (brother of Paula Traber)

Recovering: Bill Blance (Ed's brother), Gabbi Seeber, Kerry Van Iseghem, Joan Danaher, Sara Scharr, Sara Henderson, Arlene Willett, Patti Cagwin, Shirley Kem, Mary Jane Laird

Comfort and Peace: Mary Zimmerman (Wendy Bacon's mother)

MILITARY SERVICE: US Army LT1 Andrew Marlin (Tyler Bosecks husband) home from deployment, LTJG Nick Castiller (USN), MAC Adam Thorman (USN), E6 Cody Wells (USN) deployed to Japan, TSgt Timothy Peck (USAF)

MISSIONARIES: Carlos Bonilla & Mayra Giovantti – the BGs (Central/South America), Tim & Patti Long (Baja Mexico), Shelvis & Nancy Smith-Mather (S Sudan refugees in Uganda), Ryan & Alethia White (Berlin)

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**Some more upcoming dates you might want to put on your calendar (watch the Monthly Memo or future Lamplighters for details!):**

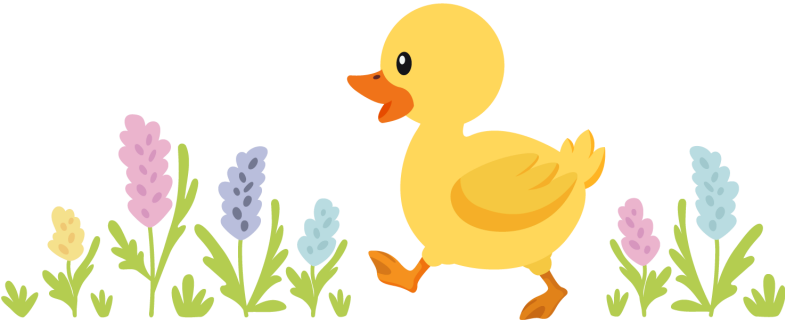
- April 7 – Virginia's Retirement Celebration
- April 27 – Testimony Saturday
- May 5 – Exploring Membership Class
- June 2 – Church Picnic
- June 9 – Grad Sunday
- June 29 – Red Wings Game
- Aug 16-18 – United Church Retreat Weekend
- Nov 2 – United Church Seminar

***Highlights for This Week!***

- Today we are collecting our special Easter offering for the **One Great Hour of Sharing**. You can find the envelopes in your pews, use the Easter envelope from your box of envelopes or just write "One Great Hour of Sharing" on your donation.
- **The church office will be closed on Good Friday, March 29, 2024.**
- We need 6 dozen cross shaped **cut out cookies (frosted)** for Youth Club dessert this **Wednesday, March 27**. Please let Deb Marshall know if you can help by making some.
- **Rice Bowls** are the children and youth Sunday school Lenten offering. These are due on Easter, which is next Sunday, so fill them up with loose change and return them in the Welcome Center. You can also donate online using this link: <https://ricebowls.networkforgood.com/projects/218960-the-united-church>

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ARE YOU VISITING US TODAY? If so, WELCOME to the United Church, we are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us. We invite you to check out our Welcome Table found in our Welcome Center, and to pick up a blue bag for yourself/your family to take home and to learn a little bit more about us. Please fill out a visitor card and drop it in the collection plate or mail in. **We are so happy that you joined us today and look forward to seeing you again soon!**

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**Children's Time** ~ There is Children's Time today. After the children's sermon, children in **Kindergarten through 2nd grade** are invited upstairs to Room 26 for an age-appropriate lesson. Parents, please pick up your children promptly after the service. Thank you!  
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MISSIONS

Faith and Action



Today we are receiving the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering**. In a world filled with chaos from war, disaster, hunger, and oppression we have an opportunity to make a difference. **God is a creator of order.** Hope and order are restored by our generous support.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is collected by both Baptist and Presbyterian congregations for disaster relief, ministries to displaced persons, and recovery projects.

One Great Hour of Sharing began seventy-five years ago in response to the devastation of World War II. On Saturday evening, March 26, 1949, a national broadcast titled “One Great Hour” featured a remarkable assembly of national leaders and celebrities. Our 33rd U.S. President, Harry S. Truman’s, radio address during the broadcast concluded by asking Americans to give generously the next morning in their churches.

“There are thousands of children in foreign lands today who have no memory of their parents, no knowledge of the meaning of the words "home" and "family," and who have forgotten what it feels like to have enough to eat. There are hopeless thousands who wander among the shattered towns seeking a place to rest, seeking security and a chance to begin their lives anew. There are many who pray to God only in secret, fearing persecution if they profess their beliefs openly. It is hard for us to comprehend grief and distress such as this because we in America are so much more fortunate. Our country has been blessed with material riches. Our homes are secure. We can go to our churches and worship God as we desire. We know that we enjoy these great blessings not because of any special merit on our part, but because of the bounty of God. It is to His Providence that we owe the richness of our country and our heritage of freedom. Since these good things come to us from Him, we know that we must use them for the good of others in accordance with His will.”



Today the United Church is receiving the **2024 One Great Hour of Sharing special offering**. Use an envelope in the pew rack or write “**One Great Hour of Sharing**” on the memo line of your check (alternate is electronic web site giving) to share in this special offering.

Nursery care is offered during both services and during the Sunday school hour for those too young to attend Sunday school so that parents may attend adult classes or help in children’s classes. **8:45 am nursery** ~ a combined nursery meets in room 10. **9:45 am Sunday school nursery** ~ meets in room 11, the preschool nursery. **11:00 am nurseries** ~ both the Infant/Toddler Nursery (Room 10) and the Preschool Nursery (Room 11) are available.

If you ordered daffodils/flowers from the Cancer Society and haven’t picked them up yet, they will be available for pick up **today** in the Welcome Center. THANK YOU!



If you’d like to bring food items to the Celebration Breakfast for Virginia Holroyd’s retirement, please sign up at the office door. Questions? Ask Mary Beth Fortunato.



After years of dedicated service to the United Church, Virginia Holroyd is retiring. We are excited to show our gratitude, so please join us for her celebration!

Retirement Celebration for Virginia Holroyd

Date: Sunday, April 7th

Time: 9:45-10:45, please come from the beginning!

Place: Dining Room

The Staff Relations Committee will be making a very special announcement at the end of today’s service. We are thrilled to welcome our new Director of Member Care! (they told me not to spoil the surprise 😊)