

JJ White Memorial Presbyterian Church

April 2019



"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16



a word from our pastor...

Reverend Bob Phelps

Easter Then and Now

From time to time my sister unearths pictures from long ago and sends them to me. Most of them I remember. Some of them I'd just as soon not. Among those, there are a couple of Easter pictures that bring a chuckle. What passed for dressing up in those days is pretty comical. In one of those pictures I'm in a hat and a bow tie, and she's in a frilly dress and an Easter bonnet. Both of us have Easter baskets in our hands, ready to head out into the yard for the egg hunt. Our kids were horrified when we told them the eggs we hunted were real boiled eggs with dyed shells--and that we ate them when we found them! They would have been even more horrified if they'd been around when we ran over the ones we didn't find with the lawn mower a few weeks later! The eggs our kids hunt these days are, of course, plastic and filled with sugary and chocolaty treats. I hope someone remembers where we put them after last year's hunt. Many will still get all dressed up for Easter, and many will have to pose for pictures that will stay around on people's phones and Facebook pages for years.

Easter may look a lot different these days, but the Good News we celebrate has not changed. The Lord is risen. The Lord is risen indeed! Our kids, just as we were, may be more interested in the candy and the new clothes and shoes, but the Good News of this day is for them and for all of us. However we celebrate, our life is forever different because the tomb is empty.

As we complete our Lenten journey in the days ahead, we will experience the pain and rejection Jesus endured to secure our redemption. In Scripture, music, and proclamation, we will celebrate the story that anchors our faith. I hope you will be with us for all that will lead us to the glorious celebration we will have on Easter morning. Dressed up or not, boiled eggs or plastic--however you celebrate, know that the glorious Good News of Easter is for you and for you to share. The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,
Bob

Confirmation Class 2019

This year's Confirmation Class has begun. Kya Cotton, Rusten Lewis, Conner Simmons, and Whit Williams are meeting with Bob on Sunday afternoons to learn more about the Church and their faith. They'll learn about discipleship, how the Church operates, and how they fit into its ministry during this time together. Please remember Kya, Rusten, Conner, and Whit as they continue to grow in faith together.

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Week brings several opportunities to reflect on the passion and death of Jesus. These are painful days, but the stories they tell are stories we need to hear if our Easter celebration is to be complete. Here are some things we'll be doing during Holy Week (April 14-20 this year). We hope you'll be here:

April 14, Palm Sunday Text: Luke 19: 28-40 Sermon: "The Lord Needs It!"

We're trying something different this year. We've invited the other downtown churches (St. Al's, Centenary, First Christian, Church of the Redeemer, and Christ the Savior Orthodox) to join us for a Palm Sunday parade before worship that morning. At 10 am we'll gather at a place to be announced soon with folks from all those other churches. We'll hear the Palm Sunday Gospel and pray together before we all proceed to our own buildings waving palm branches and celebrating the Good News. We hope you'll join us or be at our sanctuary to greet us when we arrive.

April 15, 16, and 17 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday): Prayer and Reflection

All of our tax professionals will breathe a sigh of relief this week, and we invite them and the rest of us to stop by the church any time early this week. We'll have several different options for prayer and reflection set up in the classrooms on the second floor. Come by at your convenience to pray. The sanctuary will also be open if you choose to pray there.

April 18, Maundy Thursday 6:30 p.m. Text: John 13:1-17, 31b-35 Sermon: "A New Commandment"

The choir is hard at work preparing for this service. On this night when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, we'll celebrate that sacrament. The choir and Andrew and Melisa DeCoux, our faithful readers, will guide us through many of the events Jesus experienced this night. Invite your friends and family to join us for this special Holy Week worship experience.

April 19, Good Friday, 6:30 p.m. Text: John 18:1-19:42 Sermon: "Finished!"

We will gather for a service of solemn remembrance this night at 6:30 pm. We will reflect on the cross and its role in God's plan for our redemption. This is always a special time of worship. We hope you'll be here.

Continued Lenten Services and Studies

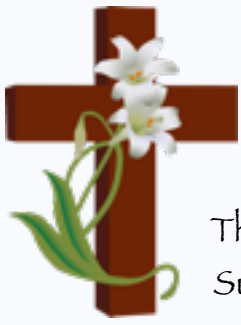
Sunday afternoons, April 7, 14 5:30 pm A Service of Evening Prayer

Join us for a time of contemplative prayer on Sunday afternoons during Lent.

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17 6:00 pm (following supper) - Wednesday Study for Adults during Lent

"Were You There? A Conversation Based on Spirituals"

We'll sing, pray, and reflect on these important texts together and learn about Christ's sacrifice for us.



Easter Worship

Easter worship begins early. The almanac says the sun will rise at 6:27am, so that's when we'll gather for worship. Watch for a location announcement, outdoors, weather permitting. We'll sing and hear the Good News from the Gospel of John. Then we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast. Sunday School will not meet on Easter.

10:30 am Worship on Easter morning will feature new music by the choir, proclamation of the Easter Gospel from the Gospel of Luke and celebration for all of us. Invite family and friends to join us for this glorious time of worship.



Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

I tell you every year that the Lenten season is my favorite time of the Church Year for preparing music. And every year about this time, I wonder why. Not because of the music or the message it brings, but just because there is so much of it to sing this time of year! The texts of Lenten music move me and help me reflect on God's love for us. That's not the problem. It just that there is so much of that beautiful music to sing during this season. We have begun extra choir rehearsals to get it all ready. We'll be singing every Sunday between now and Easter. Then we'll contribute four pieces to the Maundy Thursday service and sing again on Good Friday before we sing twice during worship on Easter. At least we don't have to get up and sing at Sunrise! Whew! That's a lot to prepare!

So far as number of pieces, Maundy Thursday is our biggest contribution to worship in this season. We have four beautiful pieces selected to tell the Maundy Thursday story and to lead us all to the Table. We hope you'll invite friends and family to join you for this special service. Of course, all the worship opportunities during Holy Week and Easter are important, and we look forward to being part of all of them.

The choir looks forward to celebrating Holy Week and Easter with you.

Mission Pledges and Upcoming Conference



Ray Jones

This year's Mission Conference is later than normal. It will be May 17-19. Our speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Ray Jones, acting director of the Office of Theology, Formation, and Evangelism at the PCUSA Center in Louisville, KY. Ray will be with us to help us focus on doing evangelism and growing the church in a changing community. Watch for a full schedule of activities for the weekend soon.

In the meantime, pledge cards are available for you to indicate your support of this year's Mission Budget. As you indicate your plans, we will be able to make plans to support several of our Mission Partners again this year. Cards are available at all the entrances to the sanctuary. Please pick one up and turn it in soon.

With Compassion -

We extend heartfelt Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Norma Ann Williams, longtime member of our church, who died on March 15. Norma Ann was faithful in worship and many other activities in the church until she entered the nursing home a few years ago following surgery. She was Robbie DeCoux's cousin and a friend of many in our congregation. Norma Ann donated her body to the University of Mississippi Medical Center for research. There will be a memorial service at a later date. Join us in giving thanks for her faithful presence among us.

We also encourage you to remember Beverly Yates upon the recent death of her brother, Roland LeBlanc in Baton Rouge, Donna Smith, upon the death of her father, Walter Roy Wells, in Liberty, and the family and friends of Donna Lampton Reeves, who died on March 31.

JJ WHITE MPC YOUTH...



The photo above is of the JJW youth who recently attended a showing of the movie "The Passion of the Christ" in Edgewood Park.

Below - several JJW youth took part in a "Community Clean Up Day" in downtown McComb picking up litter in the area.



Thanks to Margaret Ann Macloud, Christian Ed. Chair, for organizing participation of our youth in these activities.

Updates from Presbyterian Women of JJ White



Several women from PW of JJ White recently attended the 31st Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Mississippi held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg. Sixty-four women from the churches in the Presbytery attended.

The meeting included worship, installation of officers, and an informative program on human trafficking in Mississippi presented by Sandy Middleton, Executive Director, Center for Violence Prevention. An offering of \$1130 was taken to support the efforts of this organization in protecting and aiding victims of this ever-increasing threat in our area.

The PW of the Presbytery of Mississippi has also raised almost \$6000 toward a goal of \$7500 to support Mission Haven in Decatur, Georgia. Mission Haven is a housing facility supported and maintained by PW in five southern states. The housing units serve as temporary homes for mission co-workers of the PCUSA on returning home to the United States.

PW of JJ White will have their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 9, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will include mission planning, Bible study, and a light lunch. This month the Bible study is lesson 7 of The Promise of God. All women are welcome to come and be a part of this group.



Attending the 31st Annual Gathering of PW of the Presbytery in Hattiesburg are Sharon Harmon (l.) Cathy Salter (back) June Moak, Bonnie Hudon, Debbi Brock, Suzi Drummond, Beverly Yates, and guest Claire Salter.

APRIL SCHEDULES

Flowers

7 Communion
14 Rusty Whittington
21 Easter
28 Bill Jones

Children's Church

7 Melisa DeCoux
14 Ally Allred
21 Carol Rawlings
28 SaraBeth Williams

Sunday Morning Breakfast

7 Bill Mitchell
14 Sharon White
21 Easter Breakfast
28 Sharon White

Ushers/Greeters

Tommy Ratcliff, Captain
Robbie DeCoux
John Drummond
Stacey Moak

Men's Interdenominational Breakfast

3 Jimmy C, Whitney, Bob Henserling
10 Fred, Warren
17 Bill Mitchell, Kit Stovall
24 Tommy Ratcliff, Bob Hemeter

Elder of the Month

Ray Salter

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

April

1 Meredith Singley
Dominic Cotton
3 Sue White
16 Kay Robinson
17 Tommy Catchings
18 Bill Catchings
19 Lee Williams
20 Kennon Singley
21 Kathleen Harbour
23 Nicky Barr
27 Tom Warren Wild
Cole Jackson
Avery Jackson

May

1 Vicki Brill
2 Pat Randall
5 Greta James Barr
7 Helen Ray
8 Janell Herring
9 Vicki Craghead
12 Haleigh Estes
Will Ratcliff
13 Kathy Parker
14 Andrea Simo
18 Howard Allred
21 Katie Walman

APRIL

2019

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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|---|-----------|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Sacrament of Communion | 8 | 9 Presbyterian Women 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall | 10 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Activities for all ages with supper at 5:15p.m. | 11 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Palm Sunday 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship | 15 | 16 | 17 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Activities for all ages with supper at 5:15p.m. | 18 6:30 Maundy Thursday | 19 6:30 Good Friday | 20 |
| 21 Easter 6:27 Sunrise Service followed by breakfast (No Sunday School) 10:30 Morning Worship | 22 | 23 | 24 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Activities for all ages with supper at 5:15p.m. | 25 Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship | 29 | 30 | | | | |