



Dear Friends,

Pastor Eugene Peterson described our need for an "uncluttered time and space to distance ourselves from the frenzy of our own activities so we can see what God has been and is doing." I believe Holy Week provides us an opportunity to reflect upon our journeys of life and discern how we seek to live through our reflecting upon the story of Jesus that takes place from Palm Sunday to Easter.

Anne Lamott once said, "We're Easter people, living in a Good Friday world."

We are all well aware of the challenges that we face, let's see how we will experience God's Easter surprise.

Peace,
Pete

*Our world is busy
and hurried.
Our hearts don't
have to be.*

Holy Week Worship Eight Days that Transformed the World

Palm Sunday, March 24 - Worship at 10am, Sanctuary
Join us in the celebration of psalms.

Maundy Thursday, March 28 - Worship at 7:30pm, Chapel
The question that is part of the Passover celebration is: What makes this night different from other nights? We will worship in the Chapel, reflect upon the surprises Jesus shared long ago, and discover how we live into being God's people. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper. In that Upper Room, so long ago, Jesus surprised everyone by washing feet. We will experience this action through the act of "Handwashing".

Good Friday, March 29 - Worship at 7:30pm, Sanctuary

On this powerful night, we will experience a Tenebrae Service. The purpose of this service was to remember the somber events that occurred in Jesus' life from the exuberant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through the night of Jesus' burial on Good Friday. The most distinctive aspect of the service is the use of several lit candles. The flames of these candles are extinguished one by one as Scripture readings are shared to tell the story of Holy Week. This gradual descent into gloom is a representation of Jesus' increasing sorrow as the events of Passion Week unfolded. After the last verse is read, the last candle is put out, and the room is plunged into darkness. The service ends, and the participants are traditionally expected to leave in contemplative silence.



Easter Sunday, March 31, Worship at 10am

We look forward to joyfully worshipping on Easter Sunday as families connect together. Following worship we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

We look forward to joining together with all people this year. Invite someone to join in our worship experiences.



Special Easter Offering One Great Hour of Sharing

During the Season of Lent and Easter, Presbyterians have participated in supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Following the devastation created by World War 2. In 1949, many protestant denominations joined together with the goal of raising one million dollars in one hour for World Relief. The major networks broadcasted a show, called "One Great Hour", on a Saturday evening that featured President Truman and popular musicians and actors of the time. They urged people to make a sacrificial contribution at their own places of worship the next morning in church. It was estimated that over 75,000 churches at the time participated.

For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. In 2024, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering has evolved to support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People. All of these programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, these programs seek to provide people safety, sustenance and hope.

This year, we prayerfully invite you to participate with other sisters and brothers to support people in need by making a financial contribution. On Easter Sunday, we will collect this offering and tangibly witness to the repairing love of God in Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your support and participation in this life supporting effort!

Easter Lilies Still time to order!

Memorial Lilies will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31st. The lilies are \$25.00 per plant, and order forms can be found in Sunday's bulletin and the church office. Forms are due March 22, 2024.



Memorial Service for Marilyn Stone April 11, 2024

Marilyn Stone's family is planning a memorial service to be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2024 at 10am at Central Presbyterian Church. All are welcome.

Marilyn was a member of Central for over 50 years. Many of us remember Marilyn's famous 'Dinners for Eight' and her constant help on the Deacons. Marilyn participated in many other church activities as well. Her three children grew up in Montclair, attended Central and were active in the Sunday School and youth activities. After the service, there will be a reception with refreshments in the Fellowship Room.

A Look Ahead

Dinners for Eight - April 27

On Saturday, April 27, our Deacons are seeking to engage individuals and families with an opportunity to get to know others in a less “formal” fashion. To that end, on Saturday, April 27, we are organizing the opportunities for people to gather for Dinner for Eight. The following FAQ outlines this event:

HOW DOES DINNER FOR EIGHT WORK?

Groups of eight adults are randomly assigned to a host who will act as the point person for the group. The host will typically provide the main dish and contact the other participants to contribute sides and dessert, potluck-style. The host will be responsible for arranging details.

WHO COOKS THE MEALS?

It’s a potluck! Typically the host will decide on the dinner theme and/or make the main dish. The other participants will bring coordinating sides or desserts. Consider picking a theme (i.e. Italian night, backyard barbecue night, soup night, etc.) and everyone can bring a dish that goes along with that theme.

WHAT IF I DON’T HAVE ROOM TO HOST A DINNER, OR I REALLY CAN’T COOK?

If you don’t have room to fit eight people but would like to be a host, consider meeting at a park, or restaurant. (Please be mindful that restaurants don’t fit everyone’s budget.) The goal is to develop community and fellowship within our church body. We’re all called to hospitality, both offering it, and receiving it, so think outside the box! If you’re intimidated by cooking, feel free to bring store-bought food items like a bagged salad or dessert.

WHAT ABOUT FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN?

Each group will determine this answer. Parents, be prepared for the fact that you probably won’t be able to bring your children and may need to look for childcare.

At this point, we are seeking to find homes or people who are willing to “host” eight people. We are also inviting everyone to save the date and participate in this wonderful event.

If you have any questions or willing to host, please contact Michael Norton: mrnorton04@gmail.com
Signups coming in early April!

