



LIVING HOPE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Living Hope Presbyterian Church seeks to inspire and empower through the Gospel.

From the Pastor...

March 2023 Newsletter

“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight... you are of more value than many sparrows.” (Luke 12:6-7)

As we have had a few people in the hospital and rehab in recent weeks, I have been reflecting on some of the challenges that we face as we get older. One common refrain that I have heard over the years from older adults is, “I just don’t know why I’m still here!” This is often accompanied by an exasperated sigh or another question about why God won’t just take them to heaven.

It can be hard dealing with the changing limits of our abilities. We look back at our younger years and marvel at all of the things that we used to do, wondering how we actually did them all. There is the reality that as we age our ability to do certain things does diminish. Our balance isn’t what it once was; our stamina changes; our vision often gets worse; our memory may not be as sharp. When these things happen, it can feel like we are just husks of our younger selves. If we look at life as something that we are supposed to show results from it can be easy to see ourselves as “useless” when we aren’t able to be as “productive” as we once were.

But when we listen to the Biblical witness, our value is not in what we produce, not in how many things we can do, but it is in whose we are. We are valued because God created us, God redeemed us, God continues to sustain us. Our worth is present no matter our level of ability or dis-ability. In fact, no matter our state of “productivity” there is still work that God has for us. It may not be what we once were able to do, but there are still contributions to God’s kingdom that we are able to make.

Here in our congregation, we have a number of folks who are doing just that. We have a couple of members who volunteer to stuff envelopes and put labels on outgoing mail. We have a retired teacher who proofreads the bulletin and newsletter (provided we have it done in time). We have folks that stand up in front of

the congregation once every several weeks to lead us in the liturgy. If these are beyond your capability at this point, that's fine. There is still the need for folks to pray for the congregation and each other; there is still the need to remind each other of the care and compassion that is due to each of God's children.

No matter what you are able to do at this point in your life, you do have worth. God does value you. God does have ministry for you. You are an important part of the life of God's kingdom and Living Hope.

In Christ,

Will

Sunday School will be using the theme "Seeking" that we are using in worship. One of the activities the students will be doing is Poetry writing and creating Visual Poetry art.



Sunday School meets in person on
before worship at 8:45.

March 19 and April 16

First Sunday Food Pantry

March 5

April 2

May 7



Food Pantry Sunday

First Sunday of each month

Please mark any monetary donations "Food Pantry" and they will be split between the two pantries we support. The collection bin is in the church Gathering Place. Thank you for your continued generosity.

One Great Hour of Sharing - Easter Sunday

April 9

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing shares the Matthew 25 vision of eradicating systemic poverty, dismantling structural racism and building congregational vitality. OGHS supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The Living Hope congregation gave \$1600+ to this special offering last year. Thank you for your continued donations to all four of our Presbyterian offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness and Christmas Joy.



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM



It is always a joy to see the sanctuary come alive on Easter Sunday with beautiful flowers. If you would like to contribute to this display, please fill out the form below and return it with your payment to the church office by **Monday March 13, 2023**

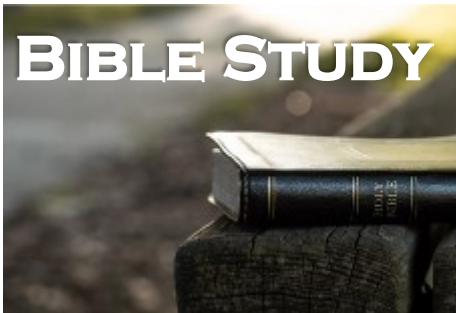
Lily	\$15 each	qty_____	total_____
Tulip	\$14 each	qty_____	total_____
Hydrangea	\$29 each	qty_____	total_____

Your name: _____ Order total \$ _____

Given in memory of : _____

Given in honor of: _____

Plants can be taken home after church on Easter Sunday, or please contact the office to make arrangements. Any plants left at church after Wed, April 12 at noon will be donated.



Monday Bible Study

Mondays at 9:45 AM

Join us for a discussion about the coming Sunday's lectionary readings either in-person in Fellowship Hall or watch on Channel 966 .

Mar 6	John 4:5-42; Exodus 17:1-7	for Mar 12
Mar 13	Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41	for Mar 19
Mar 20	John 11:1-45; Ezekiel 37:1-14	for Mar 26
Mar 27	Holy week readings - TBA	

We are off on Holy Week - April 3.

Faith Conversations

Thursdays 1:30-2:30 pm

March 2 - Society of Friends (Quakers)

March 16 - PC (USA) - Rev. Dr. Christian Boyd



Meet in **Fellowship Hall** , **channel 966** or watch the **livestream** [www.livinghopepcusa.org/livestream].

Come with curiosity and respect as we explore what other faiths and denominations believe and how they live that out.

MAR/APR 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 March	2 1:30 Faith Conversation	3	4
5 - Lent 2 10 AM Worship - with Communion  	6 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	7 Home communion	8	9	10	11
12 - Lent 3 10 AM Worship 	13 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	14	15	16 1:30 Faith Conversation	17	18
19 - Lent 4 8:45 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 11:15 AM Session 	20 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	21	22	23	24	25
26 - Lent 5 8:45 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship	27 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	28	29	30	31	1 April
2 - Palm/Passion 10 AM Worship - with Communion - Rev. Pete Haskins 	3 No Bible Study	4	5	6 - Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm Worship with communion	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Easter Sunday April 9 </div>	



We are a connectional church...connected in faith to God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Jesus taught us that prayer connects us to the Divine...and to each other.

Each month we list our faith community. Every family has a date when we ask you to hold them in prayer.

March Prayer Calendar

April Prayer Calendar



March/April Birthdays

**The Care and Concern of the
Congregation is with:**

Average February Attendance

In person: xx

Zoom: x

Livestream Views: x

Total Average Attendance: x

(We cannot track how many people watch on Ch 966. Livestream is household, not individual count)

FINANCIAL UPDATE - As of January 31, 2023						
				Actual	Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance
Total Income - YTD				\$ 12,002.77	\$ 9,133.00	\$ 2,869.77
Total Expense - YTD				\$ 12,606.40	\$ 12,775.00	\$ 168.60
Net Income - YTD January 31, 2023				\$ (603.63)	\$ (3,642.00)	\$ 3,038.37
Unrestricted Funds as of January 31, 2023				\$340,813.43		



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 2—10 am

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship

- a service of Palm Sunday celebration and the Passion according to Matthew

Thursday, April 6—6:30 pm

Maundy Thursday Worship

Sunday, April 9—10 am

Easter Worship



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www.LivingHopePCUSA.org



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Office Hours: Mon and Tu 8:30-12:30 (remote email rest of the week)

Clerk of Session: Kathryn Fresch

Treasurer: Steve Sinner

Church Musician: Teresa Ledford

2023 Session Members: Karl Bertram, Michael Brady, Dorothy Dieter, Kathryn Fresch, Curtis MacDonald, Mike McBride and Marcia Sinner

2023 Deacons: (A-B) Tom Tennyson (C-F) Ann Tennyson (G-K) Diane DeBoer – Moderator
(L-O) Cherie Andrus (P-R) LaVonne Gardner (S-Z) Ken DeBoer