



Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Despite what many think, Easter is not only a day, but an entire season in the church year. It is when our vestments (the fabric on the pulpit and the communion table) get changed to white, and we are reminded to live into resurrection, because in the words of the Apostle Paul, “we are raised with Christ.” (Colossians 3:1)

So what might that mean, to live as resurrection people? We know that God’s love can never die. We know that the light of Christ can never be extinguished. We know too that we will experience resurrection for as Paul in his letter to the Romans reminds us,

...don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:3-5)

But what does that *mean*? It reminds us that we need to live a life worthy of the calling that we have received from God through our Lord, Jesus Christ. We need to follow the ways of Jesus and trust that the God who raised Jesus to new life, will and has done that for us. We have been clothed with Christ so that we can make a difference in the world. Participating with God in all that God is doing.

We are the hands and feet of God (Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit) and we are called to love all the world as God does. Not to sit around and wait for God to act, but to allow the spirit to work through us to accomplish God’s will in the world. This is why the resurrection matters! We are raised with Christ through our baptism to live in the world as Christ’s people for the salvation of the world. That means we have to love, we have to care, we have to serve, we do what we can

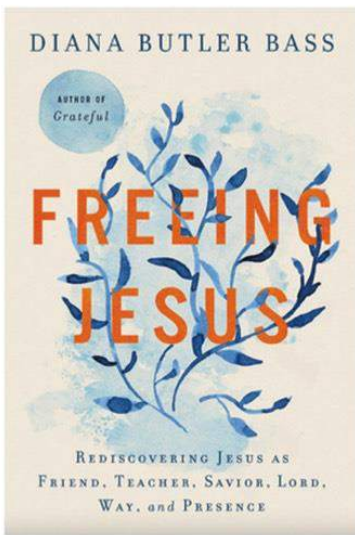
to combat the forces of evil in the world – that we all know are legion.

So what are you going to do to participate with Christ in a resurrection like his? Where are those whom you feel called to serve? Who are those whom you are called by God to love, even when that love is costly? To whom are you called to be a blessing and bring a spirit of joy and love and grace?

Answer those questions. And then participate with God in making those things happen in this community and throughout the world – for Christ’s sake.

Blessings and love,





Join us for our latest Book Club selection,

Freeing Jesus

by Diana Butler Bass

We will meet to discuss the book over three Monday evenings from 6-7:00pm, at the clubhouse at The Manor (1st building on the left after you turn from Twin Church Rd to Hamer Circle.)

April 15 (Intro, Chapters 1&2)

April 29 (Chapters 3&4)

May 13 (Chapters 5&6, and Epilogue)

The book is available on all book websites. Please let the office know if you are interested in a group purchase.



Pastor Jen will be on study leave from April 8 to April 13 and from April 24 to April 28.

If you have a pastoral care concern, please contact the Elder on Call:
Susan Tedder at 843-319-9226
(April 8-13)

or Kris Andrews at 803-331-3124
(April 24-28)

Pastor Jen will be at church and preaching on both April 7th and 14th. Rev. Gavin Meek will be preaching for her on Sunday April 28th, and Pastor Jen will be back in the office on Monday the 29th.

Rev. Dr. Ella Busby is available to assist with pastoral emergencies, but please first contact the Elder on Call.

JCPC 101: A class for those considering membership

What is it? Why should I come?

Maybe you are curious about these or other questions:

- So what does it mean to be a member of a church these days?
- Do I need to be "presbyterian" to belong to John Calvin?
- What is the history of this church?
- What does the PCUSA stand for?
- What does the Presbyterian symbol mean?
- What do Presbyterians believe about God, Jesus, the Bible, love, grace, marriage?
- How are we like other Protestant Christians (Methodists, Baptists, others?)
- What about Roman Catholics? Orthodox Christians?
- Are there certain things I need to believe? What if I'm not sure?



If you are new(ish) and interested in learning more about JCPC and what membership means, this class is for you! (Or if you've been here for a while and want a refresher.) Pastor Jen will be teaching this on April 21st at 3:45-5:15 in her study. Please RSVP to the church office or Pastor Jen by 4/15/24



We need your help with Children's Church!

Every Sunday our tireless Christian Education volunteers (Susan Nexsen, Myra Horton, Betty Anne Smith, Karen Pattillo, Jane Coker, Annie Bigham and Emily Stonerock) need to have a second person with them and the children during worship. As we continue to try and hire a Children's Assistant, we need some of you to help us by volunteering for a Sunday. (Some of our volunteers have not been able to be in worship for weeks if not months. Please help as you are able.)

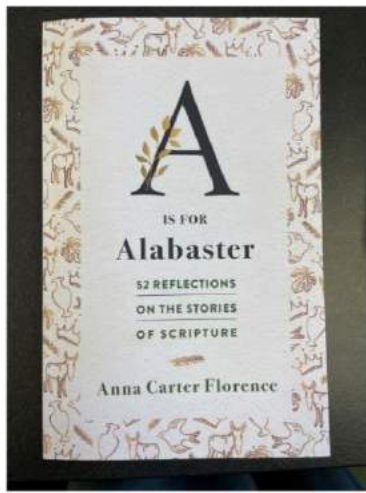


A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Sue Matthews

April 17, 2024 at 1pm
with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.
Please continue to hold Muncie and their family in your prayers.



Joyful Noise— meets
Sunday, April 7th
Sunday, April 21st
3:45-5:30 pm



Mid-week Bible Study to continue Wednesdays at 12 on Zoom, Using *A is For Alabaster* by Anna Carter Florence

We are studying **52 stories — 26 in the Old Testament and 26 in the New Testament.** Each week we will look at one reading (3-4 pages), explore the scripture that it is drawn from, and consider what it means for our life.

We have been having a great time, and we've been learning together. If you have any questions, see Pastor Jen or Betty Anne Smith, and we will get more books if need be. Just let us know if you want to participate.

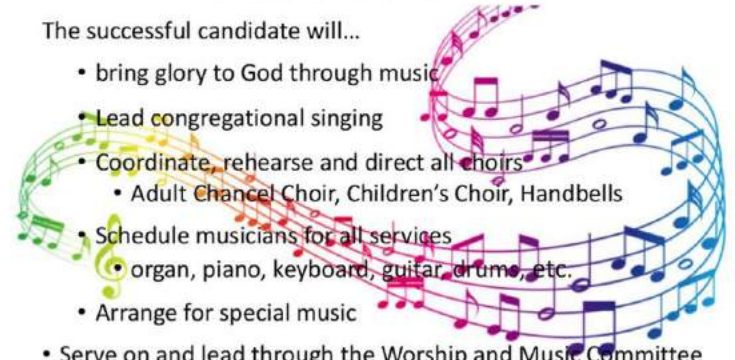
John Calvin Presbyterian Church Florence, SC is seeking a Director of Music Ministries

The successful candidate will...

- bring glory to God through music
- Lead congregational singing
- Coordinate, rehearse and direct all choirs
 - Adult Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Handbells
- Schedule musicians for all services
 - organ, piano, keyboard, guitar, drums, etc.
- Arrange for special music
- Serve on and lead through the Worship and Music Committee

These are just a few of the fun things you'll enjoy in this position!

To apply, e-mail resumé to johncalvinpresbyterian@gmail.com



The Nominating Committee Needs Your Input

The JCPC Nominating Committee is seeking recommendations for persons to serve as Ruling Elders on Session and those who might serve on next year's nominating committee. If you would like to recommend someone for consideration by the committee, please send those names to

Pastor Jen, Elder Kris Andrews or Elder Susan Tedder no later than April 21.

They will gather all recommendations and share those names with the Nominating Committee for consideration. The Nominating Committee will be using a process of spiritual discernment as they seek the will of Christ for our congregation. **Characteristics of good leaders include spiritual and emotional maturity, involvement in the life of the congregation, and a willingness to engage in prayer, study and discernment.** Let us be in prayer for and with our nominating committee as they embark on this sacred work.



Tone Chimes

Serving in April

Date	Elder	Liturgist	Usher/Greeter	Nursery	Counters
Apr 7	Susan Tedder	Robert Davis	Shirley & Wilda Gray	Jane Coker Sheila Lenz	Joe Bittle, James Collar, Myra Horton
Apr 14	Betty Anne Smith	Al Feimster	Beka Andrews Tom Hoffmeyer	Myra Horton Jane Thrower	Margaret Collar, Tom Hawkins, Gary Pierce
Apr 21	Kris Andrews	Judy Feimster	Jane Thrower Johnny Nexsen	Susan Nexsen Mary Kathryn McGregor	Ron Rogers, Susan Tedder, Tom Hoffmeyer
Apr 28	Gary Pierce	Thelma Hawkins	Roger Hux & Julia Krebs	Karen Pattillo Beth Russell	Kris Andrews, Robin Permenter, Tom Shearin

Treasurer's Report - February 29, 2024

Operating Budget

	Feb-24		2024 Year to Date (YTD)	
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
Envelope Income	\$ 18,325	\$ 15,269	\$ 36,651	\$ 29,512
Total Income	\$ 18,476	\$ 15,786	\$ 36,951	\$ 30,445
Prior Years Net Surplus	\$ 1,362	<u>\$ 4,404</u>	\$ 2,724	\$ 4,587
Expenses	\$ 19,838	\$ 20,190	\$ 39,675	\$ 35,032

In February 2024, total expenses exceeded total revenue by \$4,404 with year to date total expenses exceeding year to date revenue by \$4,587.

In February 2024, envelope income was under budget by \$3,056 and under budget YTD by \$7,139.

Budgeted Prior Years Surplus	\$	11,345
Total Surplus Used YTD	Feb-24	<u>\$ (4,587)</u>
		<u>\$ 6,758</u>

In order to close out 2024 without using any of the Session approved prior year reserves and PPP funds to offset expenses, in addition to keeping expenses within the 2024 budget level, our average monthly increase in total income for 2024 will need to be approximately 3% over 2023. **Compared to February 2023, total income for the month of February is down 57% and YTD total income is down 38%**

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:10
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

Session Summary

Stated Session Meeting March 26, 2024, 6pm in the Multipurpose Room

Session met on March 26 at 6pm in the Multipurpose Room. Elder Susan Tedder provided a devotion based on Philippians 1:6 from the book, *Over the Hill, Onto the Mountaintop*. Treasurer Tom Shearin was there to give an update on the proceeds from the land sale and the establishment of an endowment. He also reported that the offering for February was well below budget. The Session is reading the book *Imaginable* by Jane McGonigal and they spent time discussing the ways that we can use "future scenarios" that stretch our minds to new possibilities and new ways of thinking about the future.

Also at the meeting the Elders took action on the following items:

- Appointed an Endowment Committee to manage the establishment and monitoring of the proceeds from the property sale.
- Approved a request from Building and Grounds to the Policy and Procedures manual to ensure that all repairs and maintenance meet current code and are done by qualified/licensed contractors.
- Approved a request from Caring and Fellowship to purchase high cafe tables for church events.
- Election of Tom Shearin as Elder Commissioner for the called New Harmony Presbytery meeting on April 17th at 2pm by Zoom
- Tabled the election of an elder commissioner for the May 21st stated Presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian in Cheraw.
- Blessed the formation of a sub-committee of Christian Education for a new playground.

Being that there was no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm. Should you have questions about any of this, please see any of the elders on Session, Betty Anne Smith who is clerk, or Pastor Jen, moderator.



Blessing Bags for Neighbors in Need What's in a Blessing Bag?

A **blessing bag** is a gallon zip lock bag with hygiene items, socks, washcloth, toothbrush & paste, laundry soap, snacks, water, etc. You are also welcome to include a personal message and label for man or woman.

These will be given out at the First Friday Services Connect in May, and at The Parking Lot Ministry.

Please bring to worship during the Sundays in April—we need them by April 30th. There is a basket in the narthex.

Please keep the BLESSING BAGS coming through April as we have two places where they are appreciated so greatly. First Friday and Parking Lot Ministry. Just a note that one kept in your car can easily be given when the Lord gives you that opportunity. Adult underwear and socks are needed for Parking Lot Ministries. Anyone interested in attending 1st Friday at First Baptist may come and volunteer where needed on April 5th at 8:45. We will go to Parking Lot Ministries one Saturday in May. Please look for information on the exact date.

In the Adult SS class we are studying how our FAITH GROWS. Putting our Love into action makes it visible to others so come and join us either on April 5th or a Saturday in May. EOM is open to a need you might see in your Faith Journey.

You probably have seen that our Garden has been emptied for now. We saved what we could and gave away plants. We hope to find a new home on our property! Our next committee meeting is April 2 at the church at 6 PM. Come to the ramp door on the north side of the Fellowship Hall. Blessings!

Looking to contribute to our local mission work?
Lighthouse Ministries **Strengthening Families** program is using our facility to work with families in our community on **Thursdays**. This is a fantastic program and it teaches both parents and children good and healthy ways to be together as a family.
We need to provide **at least 2 volunteers** to be here at the church from **5:30 to 7** to help serve the meal and clean up. If you are interested in volunteering please see Thelma Hawkins who is keeping the sign up sheet.



As some of you may know, I recently spent two weeks in Honduras on a mission trip. This is the 7th year that I have been blessed to be able to go there. I worked with the Dental group and have become aware how valuable a stuffed animal is there. They are a small way of bringing a smile to a frightened child who just had a tooth removed. We never have enough stuffed animals. I am inviting JCPC to be a partner with me and if you have any gently used stuffed animals to donate them. Just bring them to the church and I will see that they go to a new home to be loved again. Tom Hawkins



April is Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness and Prevention Month!



Our partners at Lighthouse Ministries' *Strengthening Families Program* will be putting blue pinwheels on our property beginning on April 6th.

Did you know?

- More than 600,000 children are abused in the U.S each year
- 77% of victims are abused by one or both parents
- In 2021, 1820 children died from child abuse
- Neglect is the most prevalent form of child abuse
- Our **church staff and volunteers** must report any suspected abuse to the appropriate authorities.

Happy Anniversary

Debbie Barrett and Susan Jordan 4/16

Karen and Cathy Stroemer 4/20

Elizabeth & Josh Holmes 4/27



To my church family,
Thank you for all the prayers
and calls and cards and rides!
I don't know what I would do
without you all.

With love,

DeDe Molnar



Skip Bishop 4/1

Cherry Gerrald 4/3

Will Ginn 4/3

James Collar 4/4

Becky Montrose 4/5

Zack Barrow 4/6

Martie Rushing 4/8

Suk Sasser 4/10

Stanton Stonerock 4/10

Burnie Gerrald 4/15

Roger Hux 4/17

Amber Stuber 4/20

Claire McNeill 4/23

Eason Andrews 4/27



A Journey with Jesus

