

April 2025 Newsletter

On Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, but the hard part of resurrection is that something must die before it can be resurrected. It is painful to read the accounts of the suffering and death of Jesus, but the biblical interpretation is that the suffering and death were needed for the resurrection to happen.

A lot of churches are praying for resurrection, that new life and vitality might be breathed into them. But they are often stuck holding onto what was instead of moving into the future. Some of our old assumptions about church need to die if we want to see a new church rise.

One opportunity we have during a transition time is evaluating where we are at and discerning what is essential as we move into the future, and what might be unimportant or even unhealthy and must be left behind. To begin writing a new chapter, we have to end the previous chapter. It's not that we don't carry elements of the story with us, because the narrative doesn't make sense if we don't know what came before. But the story moves on and who knows what God has in store for us in the next chapter of our faith community's life?

I am hopeful and optimistic for the future of First Presbyterian. We have a rich heritage and have persevered through many challenges. It will be exciting as we find the ways that God will renew and revitalize us in the coming months.

See you in church...

Loren



**Deadline for May Newsletter
is April 22**



*Please keep Elaine Gransee, Ruth Allen, Joyce Olson, Dick Wolff and Dick Hewitt in your prayers for renewed health and strength.



- April 2 **Bill Stromme**
- April 5 **Chad Prenzlów**
- April 10 **Vincent Boukal**
- April 13 **Richard Archer**
- April 18 **Mary Wilke**
- April 28 **Steve Springsted**

First Presbyterian Church

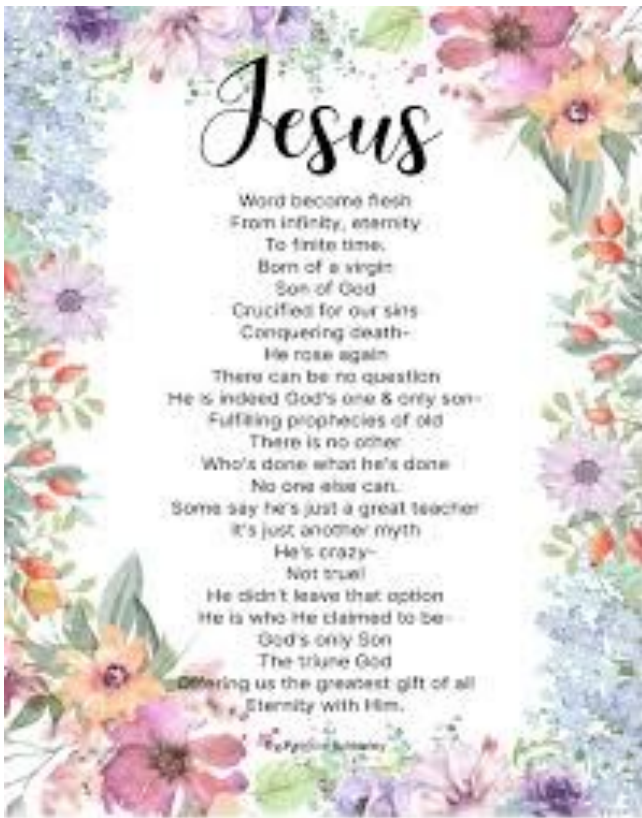
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presbykasson@kmtel.com (email)
www.presbykasson.org (website)

Pastor Loren Olson 507-676-3836
1875 Cedar Valley Dr NW presbypastor@kmtel.com
Owatonna, MN 55060 Call for anything needed.

Church Secretary **Church Office Hours**
Ann Driver 507-202-1632 **Tues & Thurs**

10:30 AM - 12: 30 PM

My hours can be flexible as needed.



Treasurer's Report:

The receipts do NOT include the non-cash items. Because the newsletter comes out before the end of the month, the treasurer's report won't be finished, so it will always be a month behind.

Treasurer's Report: February

Receipts	\$	4,830.00
Expenses	\$	5,382.56
Balance	\$	(552.56)
Needed weekly	\$	2,488.17
Needed monthly	\$	10,782.08

Session was informed about the Triennium that is scheduled for this summer if any high school student(s) are interested.

Session approved the loose offering from the last two Sundays in March to go to Semcac for March Food Share Month to take advantage of special promotions. Money and food donations will be accepted until April 6.

Session continues to discuss what events or activities are unique to our church and help us be identified in the community.

Currently there are no other compatible congregations for our church to pair with, so moving forward a part time minister will be sought.

Rev. John Gay is our new liaison to the Presbytery, replacing Rev. Doug Walters.

Flowers may be ordered for Easter. The Easter Breakfast will be served after the 8 a.m. service on Easter morning. Volunteers are welcome!

Session Highlights

March 18, 2025 Meeting

P W CORNER

Greetings Everyone,

I am writing this two days before the first day of spring and we are predicted to have a blizzard tomorrow and it is sunny, warm and windy today – we just never know what mother nature is going to bless us with, especially in the month of March! As long as we have good weather for Easter we should all be happy.

A quick note for an event in late March – a pot luck lunch will be held March 30th after the worship service – all are invited and encouraged to attend, just bring a favorite dish to share.

With the month of April comes the resuming of our PW activities. The Friendship Circle will meet on Friday, April 3 at 9:30 A.M. and our regular PW meeting will be held Wednesday, April 17th at 6:00 P.M.

Since our church delivered Meals on Wheels the week of March 24th, we are not scheduled again for that service until the week of May 5th. Many thanks to all who participate in this very worthy project, and as always, a big Thank You to Sharon Law for organizing all the volunteers.

Lots of thanks also to all who prepare and serve for the coffee fellowship time after Sunday service; it is truly appreciated by everyone.

Our prayers are needed for the family of Donna Dohrmann as they mourn their loss. Please also continue your prayers for Ruth Allen, Elaine Gransee, Joyce Olson, Dick Wolff and Dick Hewitt as they work toward better health. Please also pray for everyone in military service for our country; all in public office, law enforcement, public education, health care, emergency services, and Christian work; and please add prayers for all dealing with disasters around the country, may God help to protect them all.

EASTER

Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments, and said unto them: “Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen; remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again”. And they remembered His word.

Luke 24:1=8





Easter Message

Easter brings a message
A message full of gladness
Easter brings a message
The stone has rolled away doubt
Easter brings a message,
The angels chant the tidings:

by Eleanor Fiock

In flowers and in song.
To cheer the waiting throng.
At dawn on sunrise hill;
For Christ is living still.
It's told from sea to sea---
"Christ lives in you and me."

Lily of the Valley

Sweet Lily of the Valley
Obscured three days in darkness
The tomb just could not hold You,
Your glorious Resurrection
And now I hold a lily,
Reminding me of You, Lord---

by Andrew B. Dodge

So special, Lord, to me.
Arose in victory.
New life and love had won!
Gave hope to everyone.
So fragrant, pure, and sweet,
Your love eternally.



And now a few fun Easter items:

The largest Easter egg hunt to be held in the U.S. happened at Cypress Gardens Adventure Park in Winter Haven, Florida on April 1, 2007. At the gigantic hunt, 9,753 children and adults searched for a whopping 501,000 eggs.

In 2024 Americans spent \$22.4 billion dollars on Easter for food, clothing, candy, and gifts, etc. according to the National Retail Federation.

Kiddos in the U.S. love the Easter Bunny, but in Westphalia, Germany, an Easter Fox once delivered eggs and goodies to the children.

It's thought that Eostre, a goddess celebrated during the Spring Equinox, is thought to have inspired the name Easter. She is the goddess of spring, rebirth, and fertility, and her icon is the rabbit. Historians believe the Vernal Equinox festival in honor of Eostre transitioned into the Christian holiday.

Easter egg hunts are the most beloved way to celebrate Easter. A recent study shows that 83% of people participate in the fun, family activity on Easter.

JOKE TIME:

What kind of bean can't grow in a garden?	A jelly bean
What kind of jewelry is the best Easter gift?	A 14- carrot gold one
Why don't chickens play baseball?	Too many fowl balls
What do you get when you cross a bunny with an onion?	A bunion
Where do rabbits go after their wedding?	On their bunnymoon
Where does Christmas come before Easter?	The dictionary

Well, that's enough of that. I am wishing each and everyone a very happy, blessed Easter; may you all enjoy being with family and celebrating this wonderful season.

May God bless and keep you throughout the coming days; stay happy, healthy, and please be kind to one another. Blessings all,

Sue



PW Recipe Corner

Strawberry Fluff Salad - from Sue Alberts

3 c. water	1 (10 oz.) pkg. frozen strawberries
2 (3 oz.) boxed tapioca pudding	1 (16 oz.) Cool Whip
1 sm. box strawberry Jello	
1 (14 oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained	

Mix water and pudding. Bring to small boil. Mixture will be thick. Add Jello and let cool completely. Add drained pineapple, strawberries and Cool Whip. Refrigerate for an hour and serve.

Kasson-Mantorville
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA

EGG HUNT [w] 6:30PM
GOLDEN EGG PRIZES
ARTS & CRAFTS
PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY
FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-7

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16TH
6:00-7:00 PM

K-M ELEMENTARY & COMMUNITY ED BUILDING





SPONSORED BY:
KASSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE




DONATIONS NEEDED

NEW AND/OR GENTLY USED BIKES FOR KIDS AGES 2-10 IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Suggested size guide.

						
Height Range	28" - 38"	36" - 40"	38" - 48"	42" - 52"	48" - 60"	56" - 66"
Age Group	1 - 4	3 - 4	3 - 7	5 - 9	7 - 13	10 - 15
Wheel Size	12"	14"	16"	18"	20"	24"



Donated bikes will be used for prizes at the 9th Annual Bike Rodeo on June 18th 2025

QUESTIONS? Contact Jes Meeker: j.meeker@komets.k12.mn.us

Some Upcoming Events

KASSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

LATE FEE AMNESTY

Have late fees on your library account? Stop in the library between **March 31 - April 26** and have all late fees waived! Details on who qualifies in the caption.

AMNESTY DOES NOT APPLY TO LOST/DAMAGED ITEM FEES


Shades of Grace

Thursday Movie Matinee

April 24th

"I Can Only Imagine"

Movie begins at 2pm



CVLI

MANTORVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S

EASTER EGG HUNT

VISIT WITH THE EASTER BUNNY
9:00AM TO 9:30AM
HUNT BEGINS AT 9:30AM

Please bring a food shelf donation!

Bunny cake and treat bags

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH
Riverside Park, Mantorville, MN

Sponsored by MANTORVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND



Name: _____

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH

H F D J Z A S H W E D N E S D A Y H R R
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G O L P A S S O V E R P A S F O R L S S
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|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ash | Holy Week | Palm Branch |
| Wednesday | Holy Thursday | Forty Days |
| Sacrifice | Good Friday | Jesus |
| Almsgiving | Holy Saturday | Passover |
| Prayer | Easter | Foot Washing |
| Fasting | Palm Sunday | Resurrection |
| Lent | Purple | Love |

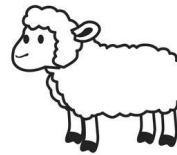
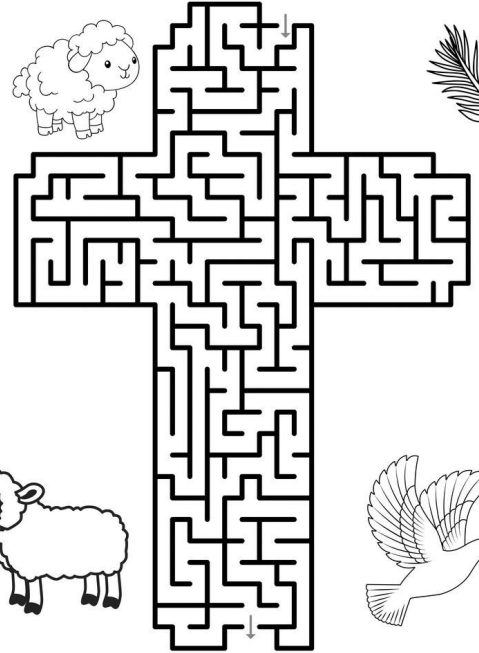
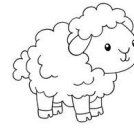


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MARCH Kid's Page

CROSS MAZE

CAN YOU FIND YOUR WAY THROUGH THE MAZE?



"The Lord your God
is with you"

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

"I know the plans I
have for you, says
the Lord"

JEREMIAH 29:11

"If anyone belongs to
Christ, then he is
made new"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

"The Lord is good to
those who put their
hope in Him"

LAMENTATIONS 3:25

BLESSED
IS THE ONE WHO
TRUSTS IN THE LORD,
WHOSE CONFIDENCE IS IN HIM.
JEREMIAH 17:7

MAY
JESUS BE WITH YOU
WHEREVER YOU GO,
& YOUR BLESSINGS OUTNUMBER
THE **SHAMROCKS**
THAT GROW.

MAY GOD PUT
LUCK
UPON YOU.

2025 April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3 Fellowship Circle 9:30 AM	4	5	6
7 Sun Sch -@ 9 am Worship @ 10 am	8	9	10	11	12	13
Palm Sunday 14 Sun Sch -@ 9 am Worship @ 10 am	15	16 Session 5:30 pm	17 Deadline for May Newsletter PW Mtg. @ 7:30	18 Maundy Thursday Deacon Communion	19	20
Easter 21 Worship @ 8 am Nate's Breakfast Following service with Egg Hust	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April 2025
is Observed as
National Autism Awareness
Stress Awareness Month
National Donate Life Month
April Birthstone - Diamond and Crystal
April Flower - Daisy and Sweet Pea

