

The Church Mouse

Newsletter

The First Presbyterian Church of Maywood 401 Maywood Ave, Maywood, NJ 07607

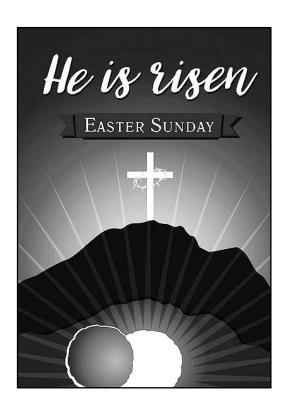
April 2021

April Message:

Easter is early this year, **April 4**th. It is a "floating" type date based on the 1st full moon after the vernal equinox, March 21st, the beginning of Spring. Easter is not a fixed date as is Christmas, but it is on a Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th

Also, FYI, "April" is from the Latin word Aperio" meaning "to open" as in plants, the signs of buds appear, a new beginning as it were/is. The origin of the word "Easter" is not very clear either. Some think it Might be based on a derivation of "Eostre" who was an Anglo-Saxon goddess for whom a festival was celebrated each spring. Others believe words meaning "dawn" or "rising" or even "east" might have been a source.

Having said all that what really matters to us as Christians is that **Easter** is considered to be the most **important religious holiday** to celebrate. This is the time to celebrate the **Resurrection of Jesus Christ**, our Lord and Savior.



We must remember that Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Holiday of Passover, which reminds the Jewish people how God freed them from slavery in Egypt. The Passover meal of unleavened bread, bitter herbs and lamb were to remind them of their suffering in Egypt. The lamb is a reminder of the sacrifice and that the blood was put on the doorframes so the Lord would "pass over" the homes so marked and the first born were not killed.

Jesus is our Passover Lamb sacrificed for our deliverance from sin. Many now question what is "good" about Good Friday, April 2nd this year. It's the day that commemorates Christ's death on the cross, the most painful of deaths. He was scorned and mocked and was spat upon. He was arrested and a "trial" took place (John 18 & 19) and eventually the Crucifixion. Good Friday does not have any cheerful hymns to be sung. It's not like hearing joyful Christmas carols or anticipating the birth of Christ.

Good Friday is when Christ became obedient unto death on the Cross so we might believe in Him and have eternal life (Isa. 53:4 &O I Peter 2:24). And as difficult and painful that this is for us to recall we must remember that without Good Friday there would be no Easter Sunday. The Lamb of God rose on the third day representing the triumph of good over evil and sin & death. We must remember that Easter is not about the bunny, it is about the Lamb of God "to whom be praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever" (Rev. 5:13) Amen.

Happy Easter to one and all

With love and prayers,



We congratulate **Sheryl Heffernan-Winkler as our new Clerk of Session**. We know that Sheryl will bring professionalism, insight and joy to her new position and she is wished all the best as she embarks on this journey.

Bobbe Kutcha is the outgoing Clerk of Session and has served faithfully and honorably for many years. She has shown grace and dedication in holding this title and setting the precedence for the position. We appreciate the sharing of her gifts of time, love, detail and commitment over a long period of time, all for the benefit of our Church. We appreciate all Bobbe has done and thank her, graciously and sincerely, and wish her much happiness and love.

We pray that God will Bless both **Bobbe** and **Sheryl** and we raise prayers of thanks that we have them both in our Church family.

The Church Manse plumbing project is continuing on a **positive** path! Carol Dass has been communicating with our Insurance company and is pleased with the outcome of monies received for the water damage.

Lenin Barberena and his **family** continue to work on the hands-on aspects of finding and working with contractors to perform the needed repairs.

Thank you so much for your continued dedication to this ongoing project!





There will be a Good Friday Worship Service on Friday, April 2nd at 6:00pm

The **flowering Easter plants** adorning the church on **Easter Sunday** will be available for purchase following the Worship Service. The cost is **\$10.00 per plant.** If you would like to purchase one to take home speak with Carol or Betty following the service.



April Birthday

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Donovan Carberry – April 20th

Fun & Happy birthday wishes, Donovan!



"Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands"

(Hebrews 1:10)

April 22nd is Earth Day! What more can we do, but, take care of the earth that God has created for us?

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1)

And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:9-10)

Last month we marked one year that retail stores phased out the use of plastic bags. That is a terrific beginning! Let's all do our best to recycle plastic and paper, be aware of global warming and support programs geared to solve it and pray for preservation and peace on our

one and only amazing home....earth!

Think Globally....Act Locally

There is still time to be a part of "People to People 2021"! The deadline for submission is April 10th Betty is assembling poems, scripture, inspirations during the Pandemic and artwork. All are welcome for this second edition! Mail submissions to Betty Fetzer 652 Grant Ave. Maywood, NJ 07607 or email submissions to Carol Dass at dasscarol@gmail.com. Be a part of this fun and lasting project! Copies will be mailed out to each contributor!

We are delighted to be enjoying Daily (Tuesday - Saturday) Lenten Devotional services prepared and presented to us by Pastor Kevin. The virtual Devotionals began on February 17th and will conclude on April 3rd. If you would like to receive the link to our remaining Lenten Services via email or text contact Carrie (201) 663-5524 or email carrielwerner@aol.com. We would like to thank Pastor Kevin Kwon for the time and "devotion" it took to prepare these meaningful daily inspirations for us!

Now that we have resumed in person Worship Services, our *past* virtual Sunday Worship Services will continue to be available to everyone via our Church Web Site at www.maywoodpres.org
Visit our web site for updates on events, past virtual worship services and current and past Church Mouse Newsletters too!



We can all enjoy the beautiful signs of Spring! Watch for daffodils and tulips, crocus, hyacinth and many other small flowers that are blooming amid our health crisis. Complete with beautiful colors and lovely scents, we can still witness God's tender hand at work around us. The trees and bushes are showing signs of budding with light green leaves that can bring us hope as the season changes.

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Thought for the month:

"Life is a promise. Fulfill it." ...Mother Teresa



Happy Easter



