
CROSSROADS

April 2025

First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville



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Christ is Alive!

"Christ is alive." This is the great truth which fills our faith with meaning. Jesus, who died on the cross, has risen. He has triumphed over death; he has overcome sorrow, anguish and the power of darkness. "Do not be terrified" was how the angels greeted the women who came to the tomb. "Do not be terrified. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here." "This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Easter is a time of joy to be found really and fully in the Christian's heart. For Christ is alive. He is not someone who has gone, someone who existed for a time and then passed on, leaving us a wonderful example and a great memory.

No, Christ is alive. Jesus is the Emmanuel: God with us. His resurrection shows us that God does not abandon his own. He promised he would not and he has kept his promise.

Christ is alive in his Church. "I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." That was what God planned: Jesus, dying on the cross, gave us the Spirit of truth and life. Christ stays in his Church, its sacraments, its liturgy, its preaching — in all that it does.

Christ is alive in Christians. Our faith teaches us that we, in the state of grace, are filled with God. We are men and women. We are flesh and blood, people with sentiments and passions, with sorrows and joys. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made to live."

Christ's life is our life, just as he promised his Apostles at the last supper: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." That is why a Christian should live as Christ lived, making the affections of Christ his own, so that he can exclaim with St Paul: "It is now no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me!"

from "Christ Is Passing By" by St. Josemaria Escriva

Lent and Holy Week

Taize' Service	March 28 at the First United Methodist
4th Sunday of Lent	March 30
	5th Sunday Service and Pot-luck Luncheon
Taize' Service	April 4 at the First Presbyterian
5th Sunday of Lent	April 6
Taize' Service	April 11 St. Stephen's Episcopal
Palm Sunday	April 13
Maundy Thursday	Service on April 17 @ 5:30 p.m. Communion and a Light Meal
Good Friday	Service on April 18 @ 5:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday	April 20 @ 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesday Nights

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Don't miss out on an amazing meal and fellowship!

**There will be NO MEAL on
Wednesday, April 16th.**

Youth Group and Choir @ 6 p.m.

Study "He Chose the Nails" by
Max Lucado following the meal.

May Newsletter Articles

Due

**No Later Than
Tuesday, April 22nd.**

April Birthdays



- 3 Emily Evans
- 5 Gwynn Durham
- 11 Shannon Krempin
- 14 Beckie Riddell
- 17 Paula Swason (Choir)
- 15 Tabitha Srader
- 24 Rion Cascaden
- 29 Don Burton

Join Us for Book Club

Wednesday, April 2 @ 10 a.m.

In the parlor.

“Two Steps Forward...”

by Sharon Garlough Brown

A story of persevering in hope.

May Book

“Two Steps Forward...”

by Sharon Garlough Brown

A story of persevering in hope.



“Let Justice Roll Down”

A Women’s Bible Study

Please join us as we continue with our study entitled “Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation.” Scripture reminds us that we are called to speak out to urge our society to act for just transitions with particular care for society’s least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems.

We meet the third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. **The lesson for April 16th will be Chapter 6, *Climate Change*.** Learning about climate change can open our eyes to our need to care for God’s creation.

Contact Brenda Brock, 936-581-3329, for additional information.

A Time of Lectio Divina

for the Discerning Hearts

Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

in the Parlor

Bring your journal and pen.

“Contemplative prayer is not so much a type of prayer as something that should be a component of all prayer. It is the silence and space for stillness before God that supports genuine presence and openness to God.

— David G. Benner,

Opening to God: Lectio Divina and Life as Prayer

A Lenten and Holy Week Prayer by Henri Nouwen

Dear Lord, your disciple Peter wanted to know who would betray you. You pointed to Judas but a little later also to him. Judas betrayed, Peter denied you. Lord, give me faith, faith in your endless mercy, your boundless forgiveness, your unfathomable goodness. Let me be tempted to think that my sins are too great to be forgiven, too abominable to be touched by your mercy. Let me never run away from you but return to you again and again, asking you to be my Lord, my Shepherd, my Stronghold, and my Refuge. Take me under your wing, O Lord, and let me know that you do not reject me.

Bless me, Lord, and give me the grace to know your loving presence more intimately. Amen.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

- 36% Supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program, which is committed to ending hunger globally.
- 32% Supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which is committed to helping others repair from disaster during and beyond the initial aftermath globally.
- 32% Supports Self-Development of People, which is committed to helping communities around the world gain the skills they need to improve their communities.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (see to the left) all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster responses to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please prayerfully and generously give to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday.

The Gathering Place

"Dementia is a journey that we walk together." - Alzheimer's Association

At The Gathering Place - every first Tuesday of the month from 10 am - 1 pm at First Baptist Church - we journey together with one another sharing past stories, playing games, working together doing crafts and exercise, sharing a meal, and most importantly enjoying fellowship, laughter and joy. All are blessed.

If you are interested in knowing more about The Gathering Place and/or volunteering your time, please speak to Beckie Riddell.

5th

Sunday Pot-Luck Luncheon and Service Project

Sunday, March 30

Don't miss out on the good food, serving others
and fellowship!

Ash Wednesday Worship Responses

During our Ash Wednesday worship service, we asked ourselves “What brings us closer to Jesus? What kinds of actions do we take to help us to trust Him and have a “risky” faith?”

Here is a summary of your responses:

- Prayer, stillness, and meditation were the overwhelming common answer.
- Scripture study, reading, and hearing - alone and with a group.
- Fellowship with family and friends at camp, Bible studies, worship, meals, and school.
- Seeing God in nature: sunrises, sunsets, trees, birds.
- Music, singing, dancing.
- Truth and Faith
- Love! Helping others or seeing someone help someone else.
- Doing the Work! Walking the walk! Recognizing Jesus beside me, leading me, loving me.



Ukrainian Family and Prayer

During the onset of the Ukrainian and Russian war we were informed by Ron and Janice Lange that their daughter, Penny, and her family were opening their home for a family (mother and two sons) fleeing from their home in the Ukraine. Since that time, they have moved back into their home. FPC supported both families with our prayers.

The following is a recent text from the Ukrainian mother to Penny:

Dear Penny, thank you for your thoughts about us. Physically, we are fine: I work, Ygor has school and football, Artem has second year of university remotely (there are no bomb shelters).

We are tired - every night the shaheads fly - we either hide or, having no strength left, we ignore them. And it is also scary because it is not clear how this will end. But we live while we are alive!!!

Please continue to pray for this family and for God's peace and justice to touch the lives of all involved.

5x5x5 Bible Reading Plan

It is never too late to start reading your Bible! If you're not used to reading the Bible daily, start with this easy to use tool to read a chapter of the New Testament in a day. This reading plan will take you through all 260 chapters of the New Testament, one chapter per day. The Gospels are read throughout the year to weave in the story of Christ all year long. We are now into Hebrews and will begin Galatians after Hebrews.

If you are invited to join the Parlor Sunday School class Sundays at 9:15 am to share new findings and enlightments.

Aspire

*1 night - 3 hours just for Women -
An evening full of laughter, learning,
stories & music*

*Friday, May 9
Second Baptist Church*

*A flyer & sign-up list is on kitchen door
and narthex bulletin board
if you are interested.*

A Wilderness Journey Mission Day Camp

**June 2-5 from 9am-12 Noon
Ages K - 6th Grade**

**Experiencing the Exodus Story
through interactive games, group building,
service projects, fellowship and fun.**

**Register
Now!**

**First Presbyterian Church
1801 19th Street, Huntsville
936-295-2440**

**Volunteers Needed
Contact Brenda**



**Help your fellow
SHSU music students
raise funds to travel
and perform at:**

Sarah Book

**Henry Torrealba
Adames**

**EURO
ARTS
ACADEMY**

**Euro Arts Academy Summer 2025
Szczecin, Poland
July 03 ~ August 25**

Summer Music Series and Ice Cream Social

First Presbyterian Church - Friday, June 13 at 7 p.m.

All donations will go towards Sarah and Henry's trip to Poland.

Mark your calendar for the July 11th Music Series and Watermelon Social