

HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST

1. Admit your need.
"I am a sinner."
2. Be willing to turn from your sins.
"I am sorry for my sins, Lord. Please forgive me."
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.
"I believe you did what you said you did—that you died on the cross then rose from the dead and have the power to save me."
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit.
"Please come into my life and change me. Make me a new person."
5. If you have recently received Christ, we would like to give you a Bible and some study materials. Contact Janine Miller if you are interested.

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Events in Our Church Family This Week

Sunday	12:15 pm	Pizza Party Potluck (Fell. Hall)
Monday	6:30-7:30 p 8:00 pm	Campaigner's (Baldauff Residence) Young Life Club (Gilbert's)
Tuesday	6:30 am	Church Reserved Men's Fellowship (Great Room)
Wednesday	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice (Sanctuary) Quartet Practice (Sanctuary) Brass Practice (Sanctuary)
Thursday	10-11 am 6:30 pm	Women's Growth Group (Fell. Hall) Grigorenko Growth Group (Baldauff's)
Friday	7:00 pm	Community Good Friday Service (Sanc.)
Easter Sunday	6:30 am 8:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Community Sunrise Service at UMC Traditional Worship Sunday School for All Ages Contemporary Worship



FPC NEWS

Mar. 25, 2018



Community Good Friday Service

First Presbyterian
This Friday, Mar. 30th
7:00 pm
A service of music and video.



Sunrise Service

At the Methodist Church
Easter Sunday
6:30 am



Easter Sunday Service

8:30 & 11:00 am
FPC



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Pizza Party Potluck

Today!

Join the rest of the church family after the 11:00 service today for a pizza party potluck! Bring a fruit or veggie salad or a dessert to share with the church family. Pizza, paper supplies, and drinks will be provided!



A Mystery Dinner!

You are invited to a Mystery Dinner for adults (and junior high and high school students) on Saturday, April 7th, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Janine Miller or Carol Wildman by the Wednesday before (Apr. 4). Childcare will be provided.



2018 Gold Club Begins!!



This year's Gold Club kicks off this Wednesday with lunch at 11:30 am at Collier's in Springfield (on Rt. 41, just above the mall). If you have been blessed to reach age 50 or above, you are eligible to

be in this Club! Come and meet others from the South Charleston community—renew old friendships and make new ones! Please make reservations with Barb Florence (462-7328) **today** so we have enough seats for everyone. Car pooling is available. See Barb for that too. For a complete list of this year's events, be sure to pick up a Gold Club brochure from the Welcome Center.

Nursery Worker Schedule

March	
25	Diana Timmons Jodi Smith
April	
1	Tom & Lois Staton
8	Julie White
15	Terri Paugh
22	Rachel Baldauff
29	Mindy Wildman

Thank You,
Volunteers!

Upcoming Sermon Topics

- Apr. 1—Looking for Jesus of Nazareth (Mark 16:1-8)
- Apr. 8—The Aim of Instruction (1 Timothy 1:1-11)
- Apr. 15—The Worst of Sinners (1 Tim. 1:12-20)
- Apr. 22—Praying in Church (1 Tim. 2:1-15)

Where to turn to for help & answers...

Card Ministry.....	Barbara Florence
Chair Loan	Janine Miller
Change of Address, Phone or Name.....	Janine Miller
Christian Ed Elder	Dave Morrow
Church Calendar.....	Janine Miller
Church Grounds	Jay Mitchell
Deacons.....	Dan Smith, Fred Berge, Jim Lightle
Evangelism Elder	Aaron Baldauff
Facilities Elder	Chuck Wildman
Fellowship Elder	
Finance Elder	Jim Hildebrand
Food Pantry	Dan Smith
Growth Groups	Dave Morrow
Maintenance, Church Building.....	Bob Entler
Maintenance, Manse	Ryan Smith
Membership.....	Pastor Paul Copeland
Missions Elder	Aaron Baldauff
Music Ministry	Carol Wildman, Deanna Mattinson
Newsletter	Janine Miller
Nursery	Julie White
Pioneer Clubs.....	Rachel Baldauff
Prayer Chain	Janine Miller
Vision Team.....	Larry Hill, Jeff Miller, Daphne Berge, Emma Parker
Rental, Church Facilities.....	Janine Miller
Website	Janine Miller, Mindy Wildman
Worship Elder	Janine Miller
Youth Ministry.....	Dave Morrow, Pam Vaughn, Rachel Baldauff

April's Items of the Month for the Food Pantry

Peanut Butter Jelly

Thank you so much for your donations! Please place them in the Food Pantry bin in the Fellowship Hall.



intentionalPrayer

"Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart."

Please pray for the following needs of the church during the coming weeks:

- * For our Selection Team, as they sift through applications; that they would be given wisdom and divine guidance as they look over the information they have been given.
- * For the Session and the Vision Team, as they begin working out the in's and out's of the new leadership model, that God would show them His vision of what FPC leadership should look like.
- * For the safety of our schools, students, and staff, that God would cover them with His protective hand and provide divine comfort to those who have lost their loved ones.
- * For our EPC missionary, Andrew Brunson, as he sits in a Turkish prison, for awareness of God's love, wisdom & power to answer his accusers, and for his release.
- * For the spiritual renewal of our church, community, and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, that the Holy Spirit would deepen our love for Jesus.

From Pastor Bill

The letter below was read last week during worship, but just in case you missed it or would like to read it again, here it is.

Dear Friends in Christ,

As Easter quickly approaches my heart is very much in S Charleston still. I think of all the preparations and pray for the Lord to bless this season for you all at FPC.

On the health front, I just received the report on my PET scan last week. Praise God it showed no sign of cancer activity in my body, even a 2 cm tumor seen four months ago is now "resolved." I am so grateful to the Lord for this good news. I will resume immune therapy, now every-other-week with a reduced intensity drug. My last brain scan too came back clear!

So, what am I to do? That's the question I am asking the Lord. I have made connections with two churches to provide counseling for them for their members as a volunteer. I have a few clients already, and I truly love sitting with people and listening to their stories. One church is particularly excited to collaborate with me as their need is so great and their resources are scarce. In addition to this, I grade exams for ordination in the EPC and am to serve on one of its national committees. I also am offering some time to tutor students locally.

I am thankful to the Lord for this slower season for me to rest, heal and work through grief. Each week I attend a grief group in Orlando. I appreciate the weekly prompts to address particular issues I might have neglected. I also have a wonderful small group Bible study that meets locally from my home church, FPC Orlando. They are so faithful to pray for each other!

However, beyond that I do find it a challenge to create a new group of friends. It takes a lot of initiative in this culture. Almost every Sunday, I make loaves of banana bread and deliver them to at least one neighbor here. I am happy to report that I have knocked on the doors of and met everyone on my street. I also do lots of inviting of families to dinner. Yes, fire-works from WDW seen from the end of the block make a wonderful venue to send people home before my bed-time.

I am so grateful for the notes I still receive from folks in S. Charleston. These mean so much to me. I enjoy hearing how your families are doing.

My heart and prayers are with you in this season of Easter as well as this season of new beginnings for FPC. May He bless you greatly.

in Him,
Bill Reisenweaver

A Friend in Need

Beth Webster, daughter of John & Diane Eichelberger, has recently been diagnosed with cancer. During her upcoming treatment, her husband, Jonathan, will be very busy caring for Beth and their young daughter and we'd like to help them out with food. It was suggested that instead of giving them food to heat up or prepare, Jonathan would prefer gift cards. :)

Here are a few ideas:

- Kroger
- Panera
- McDonald's
- LaRosa
- Bob Evans
- KFC
- Taco Bell



There is a box for you to deposit gift card donations at the Get Connected table. Thank you!



Easter Offering

For our Easter offering this year, the Elders have decided to divide the offering between our missionaries and summer camp scholarships. Offering envelopes will be available in your bulletin on Easter Sunday.

No one is exempt from tragedy or disappointment – even God was not exempt. Jesus offered no immunity, no way *out* of the unfairness, but rather a way *through* it to the other side. Just as Good Friday demolished the instinctive belief that this life is supposed to be fair, Easter Sunday followed with its startling clue to the riddle of the universe. Out of the darkness, a bright light shone. ...

The cross of Christ may have overcome evil, but it did not overcome unfairness. For that, Easter is required, a bright clue that someday God will restore all physical reality to its proper place.

–Philip Yancey, *Disappointment With God*



W.E. Sangster (1900-1960), a well-known pastor in England, contracted a progressive, incurable muscle disease. He lost the ability to move his legs, and eventually his voice faded away. Because Sangster wanted to continue serving God even though he could no longer preach, he became a prolific writer and organized prayer cells throughout England.

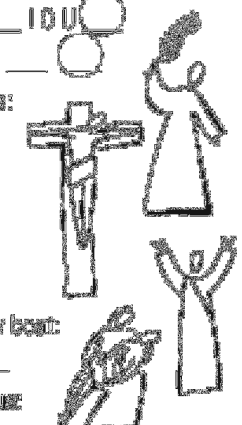
On Easter morning, shortly before his death, Sangster wrote a note to his daughter in an unsteady hand. "It is terrible to wake up on Easter morning and have no voice to shout, 'He is risen!'" he wrote. "But it would be still more terrible to have a voice and not want to shout."



Puzzle!

Use the clues to complete words with various vowel arrangements. Then place the circled letters in the correct blanks below to complete an Easter phrase.

1. Brave: E O U
2. A dark profile: Q U E
3. Circular: O U
4. Running away: E E
5. Savage, fierce: I O U
6. Old or nostalgic: U A I
7. A person from the 50th state: A I A
8. Compress, push together: U E E
9. A large tree in California: U I A
10. Paddling in a small, narrow boat: O E I
11. Upright, moral and righteous: U O U
12. Lining up in a row: U E U
13. Gorgeous: E A U E U
14. Precipitation: A I



Easter phrase:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
							!
9	10	11	12	13	14		

Answers: 1. courageous 2. altruistic 3. round, 4. sailing 5. widow 6. queen 7. Hawaiian 8. equinox 9. sequoia 10. canoeing 11. virtuous 12. queuing 13. beautiful 14. rain; Check the back!

April Anniversaries



- Apr. 5 Aaron & Rachel Baldauff—10 years
- Apr. 6 Ernie & Jeannine Erwin—27 years
- Apr. 25 Paul & Erin Webb—3 years

April Greeters & Readers

Greeters

- 8:30 Service—Rick Burton
- 11:00 Service—Dave & Arlene Morrow

8:30 Service Reader

Dan Smith

Pastor Paul's Schedule & Contact Info

This is Pastor Paul's schedule for the next few weeks. The shaded days on the calendar below are the days which he will be present here at FPC. To contact Pastor Paul, you may use the information below.

Email: paul@firstpc.org

Cell Phone:
616-676-7196

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Cookies Needed for Kairos Weekend!

Kairos Prison Ministry of Ohio is holding a Kairos Weekend at the Madison Correctional Institution on April 12-15. (A Kairos Weekend is like an Emmaus Walk / Great Banquet / Cursillo event for inmates.) Home-baked cookies! are central to these Kairos Weekends and **literally thousands are needed**.

Detailed instructions for baking and packaging the cookies are available at the Get Connected table. Cookies are due in the church kitchen by **Wednesday, April 5th**. If you'd like, you can drop them off next Sunday, Apr. 1st and Roberta Miller will freeze them until delivery day.

They will also be serving special meals to the inmates. If you would like to contribute to any of those dinners, you may put your donation in the offering plate made out to "First Presbyterian Church" and designate it for Kairos Ministries.

If you would like to learn about other ways to participate in the Kairos ministry, please contact Pastor Copeland or local Kairos team member Dan Worley (937-462-7148).

How are Thousands of Dozens of Cookies Used on A Kairos Weekend?

- On Thursday evening, cookies go with coffee and other beverages to soften the first tense minutes of the meeting between resident participants and team members.
- Every evening, each of the 42 participants takes back to his/her cell or dormitory, a bag containing dozens of cookies that are shared with other inmates as the participants an-

swer questions about the Kairos weekend.



- Cookies are available to the 42 participants throughout the 3-day weekend in the meeting room.
- Cookies are provided daily to the security stations, break rooms, and staff offices as a way of thanking the corrections officers and other staff for assisting Kairos and let them know that they too are loved by the Lord.
- All residents not involved in the Kairos weekend receive a dozen cookies. This takes almost 1,400 dozen. Also, Kairos participants return to their units on Friday evening with a second grocery bag full of cookies to eat and give away in their cell block or dormitory. By this time, everyone in the institution knows that something really special is happening inside the walls.
- Saturday is forgiveness day. Kairos participants learn about forgiving themselves, asking for and accepting God's forgiveness, and forgiving others. They each get an extra grocery bag of cookies to give to another inmate or corrections officer against whom they bear a grudge or from whom they desire forgiveness for something.

Does the Easter Bunny Come From the Bible?

When you think of the Easter holiday, what comes to mind? If you're like me, your brain conjures up a mix of different images. The cross, for example. And jelly beans. And sunrise services at church. And Easter baskets filled with eggs and chocolate bunnies.

In many ways, Easter is one of the more schizophrenic holidays of our modern culture. One side is a celebration filled with candy and pastel colors. The other side is a solemn celebration of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

So, the question becomes: did those two halves start in the same place? Does the Easter Bunny come from the Bible?

The Short Answer

Best to be clear right off the bat: the answer is no. There is no biblical foundation for the Easter Bunny, jelly beans, Easter Eggs, and other "secular" Easter celebrations in modern culture.

As far as the Bible is concerned, the observance of Easter is centered entirely on Jesus Christ, including: His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane after being betrayed by Judas

Iscaiot.

His multiple trials before Jewish and Roman authorities, ultimately concluding with His crucifixion and death on Good Friday. His dead body buried in a tomb for two nights and parts of three days. His glorious resurrection on the first Easter Sunday.

These are the biblical foundations of Easter. And there are only minor overlaps between the death and resurrection of Jesus and secular celebrations such as the Easter Bunny. For example, one overlap is the common appearance of the cross during the Easter season, which of course points to Jesus' death.

The other point of overlap is the fact that Easter is always celebrated on Sunday -- which is a direct connection with Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

So where did the Easter Bunny and other non-biblical celebrations come from? They aren't new, for the most part. In fact, several aspects of the secular Easter traditions were probably being observed by ancient cultures long before Jesus came to Earth, most of which are connected to the first day of spring or the vernal equinox. The Christian observation of Jesus' resurrection is connected to the Jewish celebration of Passover, which is in turn connected with the vernal equinox. So, the "Christian" and "secular" halves of Easter



Celebrating-Easter.com

grew together because of a common timing.

The secular celebrations of Easter, such as the Easter Bunny and so forth, are not connected to the biblical story of Jesus' death and resurrection. However, that does not mean such "secular" celebrations are bad or should be avoided by Christians.

I mentioned earlier that I have memories of both types of celebration from my childhood. Both types of memories are positive and enhanced my appreciation for Easter.

My time spent at church helped me grasp the seriousness of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross -- not to mention the seriousness of my own sinfulness. At the same time, I had no trouble connecting the joy of Easter Eggs and jelly beans with the joyful news of Jesus' resurrection and the knowledge that my sins can be forgiven because He lives.

So yes, our modern celebration of Easter is a bit schizophrenic. Yet the two halves of those celebrations can complement each other in a way that sweetens the experience for all.

—Sam O'Neal

Session Meeting Updates

After prayerful consideration and discussion at their retreat on March 2-3, Session made two important decisions at their meeting on March 12. First, Session decided not to pursue having just one worship service on Sunday mornings. Services will continue at 8:30 and 11:00 as in the past. Session will seek other means to address the desire for a stronger sense of connection between the two worshiping communities. Worship leaders will also explore ways to make the second service a more "family-friendly," inter-generational worship time.

Second, Session agreed to move toward an "accountable leadership model" for its oversight of church life. The objective is to shift Session's focus away from administrative duties and details to a more biblical emphasis on visionary, strategic, spiritual leadership. As a first step, the Session and Vision Team will begin meeting together each month under the guidance of Pastor Bill Rasch. Session set a goal of fully transitioning to this model by September of this year. For more information about either of these decisions, please speak to Pastor Copeland or one of the elders: Jim Hildebrand, Aaron Baldauff, Janine Miller, Chuck Wildman, or Dave Morrow. For a detailed overview of the accountable leadership model, see [Winning on Purpose](#), by John Kaiser.