

FAIRPLAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2019

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

-1 John 3:2, NRSV.

Dear friends,

Holy Saturday is one of my favorite days of the Christian calendar. It's the in-between time many of us live in. Holy Saturday is the day after Good Friday and the day before Easter. On Holy Saturday, Jesus is dead. The drama of Good Friday is over. The question of whether Jesus would call twelve legions of angels has been answered with a resounding "No." His dead body has been removed from the cross and placed in a tomb. It's finished. Done.

Jesus is dead. All the plans the disciples had made about time spent with Jesus are *kaput*. Over. They will never happen, so far as the disciples know. It's all over. Jesus is gone. On Holy Saturday, the drama has ended, but the deep cut of Good Friday is still raw on their hearts, and they don't know if there will ever be an Easter.

In some ways, though, the disciples are lucky. The creed says Jesus "descended into hell." Also, for the disciples, Holy Saturday is followed immediately by Easter Sunday.

For some of us, Holy Saturday stretches on for months, years, or even decades. We lose people who were vitally important to us, whether to death, or physical or emotional distance. Or we lose things we once considered cores of our existence: jobs, health, mobility, homes... the list goes on. Like Jesus, we "descend into hell." On Holy Saturday, the deep cut of Good Friday is still raw on our hearts, and we don't know if there will ever be an Easter.

Somehow, though, we eventually manage to get up and move on with our lives. The ache of Holy Saturday starts to fade away. Then an anniversary comes, or a birthday, or some other visceral reminder, and suddenly we're back in Holy Saturday, and the cut feels almost as raw as it did on our first Holy Saturday.

The temptation of Holy Saturday is to rush into Easter, to try to skip over the day when the wound from our loss still lies open. We are tempted to turn "rejoice in the Lord always" into permission to live as manic pretenders, as Stepford Christians, always smiling and never feeling our lives when they hurt. A therapist once told me emotions are connected: if you refuse to feel sadness, you can't feel joy, either.

Holy Saturday is just that: *Holy*. Transitions and in-between times are uncomfortable and hard. It's okay to not be okay. Yes, Easter Sunday is coming. The resurrection is coming. At the end of the story, Jesus returns and brings with him salvation and the restoration of all things. But don't skip Holy Saturday. Let it be holy. If you need to grieve a loss, if you need to live in Holy Saturday for a little while, that's okay. On Easter Sunday, Jesus will be raised from the dead, and the resurrection of Jesus was the opening act in the restoration of all things. But until that day, we live on Holy Saturday... and wait.

If you need or want to talk about your Holy Saturday, or about anything, my door is open.

Rev. David M. Schell, Pastor

WEDNESDAY FAMILY DINNER

We Feed People!

Again this year we will be preparing and hosting Free Community Dinners the last Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Courtyard Room. You are invited! We need volunteers to help prepare, serve, clean up or bring cookies or brownies for dessert. We also need volunteers to sit and fellowship with our neighborhood friends and share in the food, though you don't need to sign up for this.

We do not collect any money at the dinners, because the expenses are covered by special contributions from Fairplain Church members and friends. So mark your calendars for the last Wednesday of each month, and look for the volunteer sign-up sheets in the Sunday bulletins. We look forward to your participation and support for this continuing outreach service to our community!

Please join us at our next Community Dinner on Wednesday, April 24, 2019!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



6: Melissa Cobb
 10: Dave Durr
 12: Charles Duncan
 21: Marlene Smith
 22: Sandy Welch
 22: Becky Hungerford
 24: George Pica



LENTEN SERVICES

**Fairplain Presbyterian Church – Palm Sunday,
 April 14, 9:30 am Worship Service**

**First Presbyterian Church with Fairplain
 Presbyterian Church - "Way of the Cross", Maundy
 Thursday, April 18, between 4:30-8:00 pm, an
 interactive journey,
 communion served**

**First Presbyterian is located at 475
 Green Avenue, Benton Harbor**

**Fairplain Presbyterian Church - Easter Sunday,
 April 21, 9:30 am Worship Service**

CLERK'S CORNER APRIL

Fairplain Presbyterian lost a dear member when Bob Holt joined the Church Triumphant on March 14, 2019.

Fairplain Presbyterian has 92 members. During the month of February we averaged 37 people in worship, and 39 received communion in February. Home communion was served to Dr. Duncan.

Calendar for April:

April 7, Communion Sunday

April 14, Praise Band plays in worship

April 14, Ronnie Zanella's Master's Concert 7:00 pm, Howard Performing Arts

April 18, Maundy Thursday service in conjunction with First Presbyterian, **AT** First Presbyterian Church. 4:30-8:00 pm, The Way of the Cross

April 21, Easter Sunday

April 24, Community Dinner, 6:00 pm Courtyard

Ronnie Zanella, our pianist/organist, is working toward his Masters in Choral Conducting. A requirement is to produce a choral concert. If anyone is interested in attending this concert on Sunday evening, April 14, at Howard Performing Arts, but does not drive, or doesn't want to drive at night, please call Marlene at 269-506-4859. There is no admission fee.

I left on March 13, to travel to Florida for ten days. Here at home, it was quite cold and we had only had three days above freezing over a prolonged period. (We had noticed several species of songbirds returning, but it just didn't seem like spring.) Upon arriving back in Michigan on March 23, the first thing I noticed when I stepped out of my car, was the spring bird calls. What a joy to hear so much chatter from God's creation! The peepers (baby frogs in the wetlands) are a cacophony of sound. As I was walking the dog at the state park today, I was thinking how in a few weeks the wildflowers will begin blooming in the state park forest; something to look forward to for sure. Enjoy each warming day, listen for the sounds of nature, they are restorative.

- Speaking of spring. Here at Fairplain, Session authorized the donation of several items to various locations.
- Habitat for Humanity took an old metal desk and two 12 ft. wall coat racks and some glass shelving.
- Greenspaces received some of the old electronic "stuff" that Chris Corbitt and J. Michael Hall boxed up and delivered.
- Several books and papers were recycled.
- Mosaic took an old keyboard.



- A laptop that used to be mine, but has been unused in the church for several years is being sent to Lisa Kelleher along with a few other electronic items. She and Drew are going on a mission trip to Kenya in June which is being sponsored by Kenya Partners. Rev. Schell's old laptop is going to Janet Spicer at the Willows so she can stream our Sunday worship services.
- Lake Township is having a time to recycle monitors and televisions free of charge so three old monitors will be taken there.

The Lord's house is looking better.

In Christ,
Marlene Smith, Clerk of Session



WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Presbyterian Women's Circle will meet Tuesday, April 2, at 9:30 am in the Courtyard room. The lesson will be presented by Jo Ann Hartzell and refreshments will be provided by Nan Meyer. All women of the church are welcome. Hope to see you there.

EXERCISE CLASSES

Mark your calendar for the upcoming exercise classes on Saturday mornings at 11 am in the Courtyard: April 13 and 27. Kim Edinger

BLOSSOMLAND CROP WALK

The 2019 Blossomland Crop Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 19, beginning with registration at 1:30 pm and the walk beginning at 2:15 pm at First Congregational Church, St. Joseph, MI. Watch for additional information in upcoming bulletins and May newsletter.



SECRETARY SUPPLY

While Linda Cogswell is on vacation from April 1-13 the following women will be in the church office from 9 am-noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday:

Monday, April 1: Linda Zitta
Tuesday, April 2: Leslie Gilreath
Friday, April 5: Leslie Gilreath

Monday, April 8: Linda Zitta
Tuesday, April 9: Leslie Gilreath
Thursday, April 11: Sandi Corbitt
Friday, April 12: Sandi Corbitt



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Join us on Maundy Thursday, April 18, at First Presbyterian Church on Morton Hill, for an interactive journey with some of what Jesus experienced before his crucifixion. You can do this journey at your own pace anytime between 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is part of this experience being sponsored by First Presbyterian Church and Fairplain Presbyterian Church.

CONDOLENCES

Condolences to Elaine Holt on the recent death of Bob Holt. Bob passed away on March 14, 2019 and a memorial service will be held at their church in Arizona. Donations may be made to Christ Community Church, 20950 W. Union Hills Dr., Space 2592, Sun City AZ 85373.



SOUP KITCHEN MARCH 2019

The day began with bright sunshine that soon turned into rain, sleet and then hail, but inside the Soup Kitchen things were warm with smiles and good food. We served about 100 including a few children a warm lunch of sausage and gravy, mashed potatoes, fresh apples, salad, cherry cobbler, juice and milk. Our cooks and servers included Leslie Gilreath, Eloise Gundersen, John Kauffman, George Pica, Pastor David Schell, Amy Reutlinger, and Jill Wendel. Many thanks to everyone, especially to Gundersens for the apples and Jill Wendel for making cobbler. -- Leslie Gilreath

CARD REQUEST

The Deacons would like to request that if anyone has any extra get well cards, sympathy, or blank cards that are needing a home we have a suggestion! If you have extras please consider donating them to the deacons for use to outreach for the congregation. Thank you! You may give them to Mary Bartels, since she is our principle card writer, or any other deacon for her. Thank you. Sonja Stormo call me if you have any questions. 2639-465-9153.



MUSIC NEWS

Greetings to all from Revelation 15:3

They held harps given them by God and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages."

The following music groups and individuals warmed our hearts during our Worship services in March:

March 03 – Men’s Chorus and Ronnie Zanella (violin)

March 10 – Chancel Choir (2 songs)

March 17 – Praise Band “Wherever Two ... (2 songs)

March 24 – Family Slavujevic Chimes & Bells, Men’s Chorus

March 31 – Vladimir Slavujevic (vocal) and Ronnie Zanella (violin)

The highlight of this spring will be our Easter Sunday on April 21. Everyone in the congregation is welcome to be present and bring family and friends so that united we can celebrate Jesus’ resurrection that happened almost 2000 years ago.



Here is an interesting article about the origin of a well-known hymn “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (# 123 in our Church Hymnal) adopted from the book “Be Still My Soul” by Randy Petersen.

Hymn History is sometimes like archeology. There are layers upon layers, and you can keep digging down to some original source. This magnificent Easter hymn is a fine example. You might know it as the song with all the “*alleluias*”. It is fun to sail vocally along the musical embellishment at the end of each line – *A-a-a-a-le-e-lu-u-ia*. Those trills decorate the song, celebrating the joyous life it proclaims.

But the “*alleluias*” weren’t part of Charles Wesley’s original text, which was published in 1739. They first appeared with the song in a 1760 hymnal, possibly added by editor Martin Madan. So there’s one layer we’ve excavated, and it leads us to the lively music. This anonymous tune was not written for Wesley’s words. It was actually published decades earlier, in a 1708 hymnal called *Lyra Davidica*. Someone (possibly Madan) found the tune, attached it to Wesley’s text, and discovered that the extra syllables of *alleluia* fit nicely.

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Another layer we should drill down into is Wesley's writing. This hymn was penned for the opening service, Easter 1739, in an old foundry that would now be used as a chapel for the preaching of John and Charles Wesley. Though Charles dated his conversion only to 1738, he had been a Bible student all his life – and it shows. Like most Wesley lyrics, these are packed with scriptural references. Isaiah 44:23 says, “Sing, O ye heavens; for the Lord hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing.” (KJV). In 1 Corinthians 15:55, the apostle asks, “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” (KJV). Throughout Wesley's original 11 verses he used a plethora of biblical phrases.

But the Bible wasn't the only layer that Wesley dug into. There was an anonymous Latin hymn written in 14th century Bohemia, translated as “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today.” An English version of it had appeared in the *Lyra Davidica*. It appears that Wesley drew a few phrases and ideas from it, but most of his work is original.

The truth is, no matter how far down you dig, you find the same themes: victory, joy, celebration. Christ is Risen. Alleluia!

May God bless us all, grant us protection, guidance, good health, prosperity and an opportunity to be a blessing to others.

Vladimir Slavujevic
Director of Music

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

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 are Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%) and Self-Development of People (32%). All work in difference ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance and hope.

The offering is received on Easter Sunday and helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Please use the offering envelope that will be provided in your Easter Sunday bulletin and make your check payable to Fairplain Presbyterian Church, and mention “OGHS” on the memo line.

EASTER FLOWERS

You have an opportunity to order Easter flowers this Lenten season. Ester Lilies and Tulips cost \$10 each and Hydrangeas cost \$15 each with selections listed below. A portion of the proceeds will go towards the Deacons General Fund. Please complete the order form no later than **Sunday, April 7**, and place in the offering plate, or drop off at the church office. Your check should be made payable to the **Board of Deacons**.

6" Easter Lily (\$10 each) Number ordered _____

6" Tulip (\$10 each, assorted colors) Number ordered: _____

8" Hydrangeas (\$15 each, assorted colors) Number ordered: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

(I would like my flower(s) to be delivered to a homebound member _____

I would like to take my flower(s) home after Easter worship _____

Ordered by: _____ Check # _____ Cash _____



DEACONS OUTREACH

YELLOW PEW ENVELOPES

As you will notice in the pews, the yellow envelopes have been reprinted for your donations toward Deacons General/Funeral Fund and Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen.

Deacons General Fund:

Goes towards the purchase of communion cups, oil for candles, Advent wax candles, flowers for shut-ins (Christmas and Easter), printed support materials for members: These Days devotional, Care Notes (various topics), greeting cards and postage for members; CD players for shut-ins.

Deacons Funeral Fund:

Goes towards any funeral luncheon expenses that are not reimbursed by the family.

Donations to the Deacons General Fund and/or Funeral Fund should be made payable to Fairplain Presbyterian Church.

Food Pantry:

To purchase products we are low on, or take advantage of good sales on products, we normally furnish in food bags from our local retail grocer.

Soup Kitchen:

To purchase the needed side dishes for our once-a-month meals we prepare at the soup kitchen in Benton Harbor.

Donations to the Food Pantry and/or Soup Kitchen should be made payable to the Community Food Pantry at Fairplain Presbyterian Church.

RECORDING OF SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

If you would like a CD of a **specific Sunday** service, please contact the church office **with the date**. *NEW* for 2018 - An .mp3 file can also be made available on-line if you would prefer to listen to it on your computer. Email Chris Corbitt, cpc1_1999@yahoo.com and he will send you an invitation to listen to it via DropBox. You will NOT need to have DropBox installed on your computer.



LIBRARY

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Fairplain Presbyterian Church Library shall be:

- to provide books and material that will help promote a better understanding of our Christian heritage;
- to encourage members to grow in Christian faith and spiritual living; and
- to provide wholesome literature and audio/video materials for entertaining and learning.

Click on this link to go to our library catalog:

www.librarything.com/catalog/fairplain

There are several ways to browse the books in our church library:

1. Use the “search this library” window to search for a particular book or author.
2. Scroll through the listing of books which are in alphabetical order by title.
3. Search by categories – to do this, click on the “Tags” heading. The categories are:

Art & Literature

Biblical Studies

Biographies

Christian Living

Christian Theology

Church History

Church Leadership

Commentaries

Devotionals

Local History

Media

Missions

Prayer

Presbyterian Church

Reference

Stephen Ministries

World Religions

Worship

The following books have been added to our library recently – take a moment and check one out:

- Understanding the Koran, a Quick Christian Guide to the Muslim Holy Book
- Islam & Christianity, compares teachings and beliefs
- The Kurds, Creating of the Modern Middle East
- Waking up White
- Always With Us? What Jesus Really Said About the Poor



CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. David Schell, pastor@fairplainpc.com

Linda Cogswell, Church Secretary – church email: office@fairplainpc.com

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday: 8:30 am-noon, 1:00-3:00 pm

Wednesday: Closed

Friday: 9:00 am-11:30 am (closed in the afternoon)

Vladimir Slavujevic, Director of Music – email: vladoslavujevic@yahoo.com

Ronnie Zanella, Pianist/Accompanist – email: ronniezanella@gmail.com

Jenna McAllister, Treasurer – email: jennabetz@comcast.net

Chris Corbitt, Financial Secretary – email: cpc1_1999@yahoo.com

Bud Cornelius, Custodian