

First Presbyterian Church of Alma

Something I have found interesting about being a minister is that we live between seasons. This means that in October and November, I'm listening to Christmas music and planning Advent. During Lent I'm looking toward Easter. While we're still not supposed to say the "A" word (it's Alleluia, if you didn't know) during Lent, I'm writing a newsletter article for April, with Easter just a few weeks away!

It feels like I'm jumping ahead in seasons, when ministers are always reminding us to be present, to not jump too far in advance. Advent is about waiting, so we can't jump to Christmas! We can't skip to Easter without first walking through Holy Week!

At the same time, this is life. How do we remember the past, live in the present, and plan for the future, without dwelling too long in any of it? How do we live as a people of the resurrection in a world experiencing the grief and loss of Good Friday?

As Christians we must practice holding onto the hope of the resurrection without dismissing the pain in the world. Every other month I'm grateful I travel to Indiana for the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program. Each session we focus on a specific topic and how it relates to faith communities. The March topic was justice. I'd like to say that we came back with plenty of solutions, but instead we came back with questions. I also think that is part of the solution – learning to ask good questions. Jesus was the best at responding with a question—and I think sometimes when we ask the right questions, it leads us to an answer.

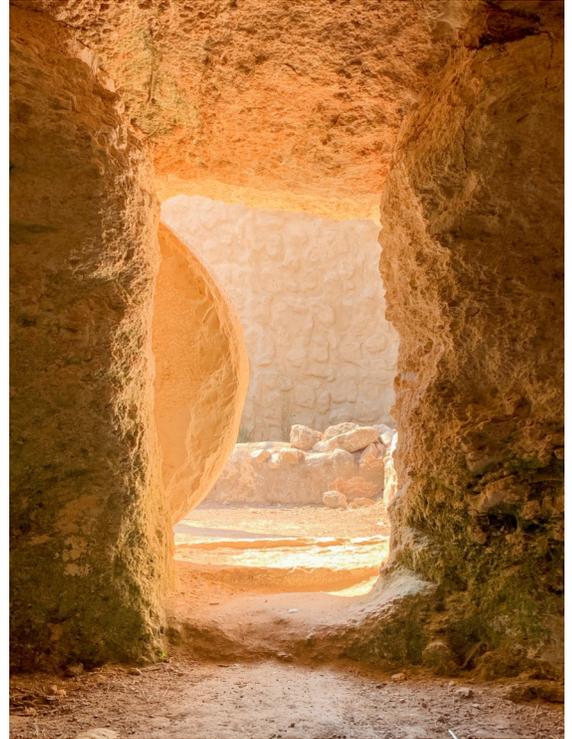
People are currently suffering because of Vladimir Putin's attack on Ukraine. Even if COVID numbers are down, it still exists and is on the back of our minds. Our world is a difficult place and hope can be difficult to find at times. There are no easy answers.

As we continue through Lent and hold Ukrainians in our hearts and minds, as we inch toward Easter knowing that God is not done with this world yet, we look to our Creator for reassurance, and look to one another, as well.

Where are you finding hope these days? What brings you life? I hope you can find a small light within your day—whether it is spring on its way, or a family member, or the hope that comes with resurrection.

Peace,

Rev. Katrina



Session Notes:

- The Session held a training on Saturday, March 12.
- Updated COVID policy: Masks are now optional during worship and church business (meetings, etc). Singing is allowed in worship. Fellowship Hour will restart on Palm Sunday. Masks are optional for food pantry workers. Community Café leaders will make their decisions regarding masks and indoor dining. Please remember that this could change at any time and session will continue to monitor COVID-19 and revisit this policy accordingly.

Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, you help restore hope, feed the hungry, and empower the oppressed by supporting three impactful programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.

Presbyterian Hunger Program takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation and address the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

Self-Development of People partners with communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice, and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

During Lent, we celebrate that God *connects with us* through Jesus' resurrection and *connects us with* "those who have least." That's what One Great Hour of Sharing is all about.

Please use the OGHS envelope provided in your offering envelope box or just mark the memo line of your check "OGHS." Thank you for sharing.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Are you interested in information about Presbyterian Women in the presbytery? If so, please contact Chris Wolf at wolf-gang@airadv.net.



Alma College Happenings:

As we begin this new partnership with the college, you can find exciting news and events here each month. You're always welcome to worship at Chapel each Sunday night at 7pm. Go Scots!

Be in prayer for college students, staff, and faculty as the semester wraps up. It can be a stressful time, as well as a joyous time—and they appreciate your support!

A new book group is starting in April! We will be reading the book *Unsettling the Word*. If you are interested in joining or more information, please contact Rev. Katrina.



Do you have information you'd like to provide for the newsletter?

Have you moved and would like your address shared with the congregation via the newsletter?

What sort of information would you like to read here?

Send your thoughts and comments to Rev. Katrina for future newsletters: pastor@firstpres.net



Rev. Katrina's Schedule:

Monday—Wednesday at First Pres—these days I'm around for visits, meetings, and I'm almost always in the office Mondays from 9-2. I'm in and out the other days, but happy to schedule something if you send an email!

Thursdays I am at the college, unless there is a pastoral emergency

Friday is my day off and I do not respond to emails



Lenten Services

Each Wednesday in Lent there will be a brief service at 6 pm with Taizé music and talking about the Lenten symbols, except the Wednesday of Holy Week

Holy Week:

Maunder Thursday—April 14 at 6 pm in the sanctuary

Good Friday—April 15 at noon in the sanctuary

Easter Sunrise—April 17 at 8 am in Pennington Garden

Easter Worship—April 17 at 10:30 in the sanctuary



During April we will not have a Matthew 25 worship service because the third Sunday is Easter Sunday! Join us for our next Matthew 25 worship service in May!



April 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 Installation of Ruling Elders	4 930 Linus Ladies	5 Food Pantry 1.30-3 7pm Spiritual Growth	6 6pm Service 7pm Sabbath	7 Community Café 5.30	8	9
10 Palm Sunday	11 930 Linus Ladies	12 Food Pantry 1.30-3	13 7pm Sabbath	14 Community Café 5.30 6 pm Maundy Thursday	15 Good Friday noon	16
17 Easter	18 930 Linus Ladies 630 Session	19 Blood Drive Food Pantry 1.30-3	20 7pm Sabbath	21 Community Café 5.30	22	23
24	25 930 Linus Ladies 1pm Called Session	26 Food Pantry 1.30-3	27 7pm Sabbath	28 Community Café 5.30	29	30