

Midweek Message



**Midweek E-mail from First Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, New York
April 10, 2019**

Peggy Hallberg

Coordinator of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Communications

In my Elementary School “I’m smarter than you” days, we went around during playground time asking the question, “If you had three wishes, what would they be?” If someone took the bait and said, “All the money in the world” we would laugh hysterically because, if you had all the money in the world, your currency would be invalid, worthless, because only you had it. If you spent it, then you would no longer have all the money in the world. We were so clever back then.

Passion Sunday is upon us. We celebrate Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem by waving palm branches and shouting *Hosanna*, which is a transliteration of the Aramaic word meaning, “O save.”

(Thank you Sunday School material from *Living the Word*: context page)

Complaining about injustice, taxation, and oppression is not new. Jesus was the chosen one to fulfill the prophecy putting an end all of this suffering.

At this time, those aristocratic priests, the Sadducees, made out pretty well with the Roman Empire. Naturally, they weren't impressed by this new kid on the playground who not only had the support of the crowd, but healed on the temple steps, turned over vendor's tables, and talked about a level playing field called the Kingdom of Heaven where all are invited, forgiven, valued regardless of life station, and used the scriptures to back it up. A revolution was at hand and you can bet there were conversations and battle plans laid out to deal with this problem, promptly, because this was their peak season.

How is it that almost overnight, Jesus went from being heralded as a prophet, the Son of David, the one who will save us, to a terrorist so vile that the people chose Barabbas to be set free in His place? His people who he loved and healed went from shouting *Hosanna* to chanting *Crucify Him* before the palm branches had time to yellow. It took more than 30 pieces of silver to do all of this.

Could it be that the people didn't really want a level playing field but wanted to be the new ruling class? Total equality and total faith in a Heavenly way, even though they saw Jesus perform miracles and heard Him speak, wasn't an easy sell. It still isn't today. Seriously, could you give up everything and follow Jesus? Would you if you sat beside someone on their death bed who told you nothing else matters except for each other? Even if you experienced your own miracle, when the crowd told you that was ridiculous, would you deny Jesus? I have, and probably will again. I am weak.

Still, on Easter Sunday, we are reminded that He saved us anyway. All are invited to the Kingdom of Heaven where currency is invalid and the playing field is levelled, because everyone is satisfied and therefore doesn't want anything more.

It's hard to imagine such a place, no matter what John Lennon says. But in the words of Mick Jagger, "You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes, you might find, you get what you need."

Thank God He knows what we need!

Peggy

REMEMBERING YOU IN OUR PRAYERS:

Lynda Howard's niece Sarah for good test results and the ability to go back to school; Don Ray; Continued healing and thanksgiving for Gayle Schulte, Julie Dudgeon, and Paul Miller all doing better; Donna Beal has surgery tomorrow; Elaine; a little girl named Lily; and prayers for a meaningful and safely traveled Holy Week coming up.

ACP Student for March: Anastasia and Lillian

Staff Member: Elisabeth Skillman



*A Heartfelt "THANK YOU" to the choir who sang to Don Sunday afternoon!
(Blowing Kisses, with both hands!) Karen and Don Ray
You'll never know how much that meant to us!*

If you need a ride to church or a doctor's appointment, would like a visit from the Pastor, could use support from our Casserole and Cookie Crew, or would like to let us know about a prayer concern, please let the church office know. The Member Care Committee is ready to help you out.

Sunday, April 14th

Bell Choir 8:45 am
Sunday School Breakfast 9:00 am
Story time at 9:15, then Sunday school classes at 9:30 am
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am
Worship is in the **Sanctuary** at 10:30 am
Parade of Palms and Passion Reading for Palm Sunday!

Worship Leaders for April 14th

Liturgist: Mark Naeser

Greeters: CK Hennon

Ushers: Beth and Bruce Archibald, Heidi and Lee Marshall

Worship Leaders for April 21st

Liturgist: Paul Bentley

Greeter: Russ Ecklund

Ushers: Sylvia Faust and Stan Gallup, Jim and Sherra Babcock

Coming Soon!

BELL CHOIR!

It's not too late to join. Rehearsals are Sunday at 8:45 am. They will be followed by Chancel Choir at 9:30 am, and then the Youth choir will rehearse after church until Easter. Children's choir will rehearse Thursdays at 5:30 pm. Come be a part of this wonderful music ministry, especially during the Easter Season.

SPECIAL HOLY WEEK EVENTS

- Sunday, April 14 Palm Sunday: Parade of Palms & Passion Reading 10:30 am
Thursday, April 18 Maundy Thursday Service at First Covenant 7:00 pm
Friday, April 19 Good Friday Service in Bellinger Chapel 12:00 pm
Cross Walk: Begin at St. Luke's church at 3:00 pm
End at First Presbyterian @ 4:30 pm
Saturday, April 20 Risen: a Rock Musical at First Covenant 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 21 Resurrection Sunday Service 10:30 am in the Sanctuary
Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 am followed by breakfast



Risen is a Rock Musical, written by Jamestown native, Jason Williams, that combines the resurrection stories into a narrative inspiring us to enjoy the new life Jesus brings.

Join us at 7pm, Holy Saturday, April 20th at First Covenant Church. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the worship ministries of First Covenant Church.

Help Wanted:

EASTER FLOWERS. If you would like to honor someone by placing an Easter lily in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, be sure to call the church office by Tuesday, April 16. The cost of a lily is \$10.00 and these Easter reminders will be given to our members who are home bound or aren't able to come to worship to remind them that they are still part of our worshipping community and remembered with love.

Rummage Sale

Spring Cleaning? Keep us in mind. Our Spring and Fall Rummage Sale is the best in town and provides much needed low cost items to our neighborhood friends. Drop you items off inside the 6th street door by Saturday, May 4th. The Sale will be held Wednesday and Thursday, May 8 & 9. **AND WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH SET UP AND SALES!!!** Please call Peggy Ambrose at 664-1120 if you can help in any way. It will be greatly appreciated!

DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Church Business Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

April 10 - TON 3:15 pm

April 10 - Artist Workshop 6:30 pm

April 11 - Aging and Saging 12:00 pm

April 11 - Funeral Service for Norma Willard 2:00 pm
April 11 - Children's Choir 5:30 pm
April 11 - Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
April 11 - SCA 7:00 pm
April 14 - Bell Choir Rehearsal 8:45 am
April 14 - Palm Sunday Service Beginning of Holy Week
April 15 - Healthy Bones 9:30 am
April 16 - Duplicate Bridge 12:30 pm
April 16 - Barbershoppers 7:00 pm
April 17 - Healthy Bones 9:30 am
April 17 - TON 3:15 pm
April 17 - Artist Workshop 6:30 pm
April 18 - Maundy Thursday Worship at First Covenant 7:00 pm
April 19 - Good Friday Service Bellinger Chapel 12:00 pm
April 19 - Cross Walk, begin at St. Luke's, end at First Pres. 3:00 pm
April 19 - ACP and the Church Office will be closed
April 20 - RISEN: a rock musical at First Covenant 7:00 pm
April 21 - Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 am followed by breakfast
April 21 - Easter Service in the Sanctuary 10:30 am
April 22 - Church Offices will be closed but ACP will be open
April 22 - Healthy Bones 9:30 am
April 23 - Duplicate Bridge 12:30 pm
April 23 - Barbershoppers 7:00 pm
April 24 - Healthy Bones 9:30 am
April 24 - TON 3:15 pm
April 24 - Artist Workshop 6:30 pm