

First Things First

April 2021

*"I know now that we never get over great losses;
we absorb them, and they carve us into different, often kinder, creatures."-K*

We are heading into Holy Week. Here are some questions to ponder:

- What has caught our attention this Lent?
- From what have we fasted? On what have we feasted?

Life, for Christians, is meant to be lived in a deliberate way. We are to become more fully human, more fully alive. We are called to consistently consent to God's movement in our lives and, at the same time, are on the lookout for how God is on the move in our church and in our community. (See Rachel Yates' articles)

Our Session is hard at work.

How might we support them as they discern the future direction of this church?

What will God tell us? Where is God at work in us? We have seen how God was at work in Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well.

How might we become sources of living water to those who are around us?

Now we follow Jesus into Holy Week. Do we respond by rolling our eyes- "oh, this again?" or do we open our hearts to what this sacred week might teach us this year?

What will catch our attention: the celebratory but ephemeral crowds? The intimate sharing of a meal on Holy Thursday? Maybe we might experience some of the pain that Jesus went through on Good Friday: betrayal, physical abuse, torture and corporal punishment leading to death? If we take the time to absorb these Holy Days, they will carve us into different, kinder creatures.

Whatever catches our attention remember this: Even though Jesus was not in charge of how that week ended, as the new week began, he showed us all what it means to be fully human and fully alive in God. Resurrected. A Child of God. He ushered in a new era of love which gifts us who follow with a hopeful faith.

Blessings during this holy time of the year.

Pastor Glen

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March 15, 2021

The Caring Place Waukesha announces the closing of its program effective April 30, 2021.

With great sadness The Caring Place of Waukesha Wisconsin is announcing it will cease to provide services to area seniors and their families effective April 30, 2021. The Caring Place of Waukesha has provided weekly day care and enrichment activities for Seniors to assist families who are caring for their loved ones.

The Caring Place has operated since 1988. The First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha has supported the operation as part of their congregation mission to the community. Families chose The Caring Place as a safe haven for their Senior/Loved ones to spend the day being involved in enrichment activities, hygienic needs, nutrition and many other daily activities. As families caring for their loved ones needed to continue working The Caring Place offered a secure, safe and rewarding day of care and activities. The Caring Place operated a very successful Meal on Wheels program providing meals and companionship for many seniors in the Waukesha area.

It is with a heavy heart that the Board of Directors came to the realization that the recent pandemic and the impact on various areas of our economy have created an unsustainable path to continue to move forward to provide the services that families and seniors deserve and need.

Through the 34 years of operation there have been so many people who have contributed to the success of the mission of The Caring Place. The Board of Directors want to thank all current and previous Executive Directors, staff members, volunteers, clients, families, Board Members, vendors for their service and dedication to the clients/families of The Caring Place. It truly was a “family” atmosphere.

We also want to thank the United Way and the many community members and partners who have supported our programs financially through the years.

The dedication and mission of the First Presbyterian Church has been essential to The Caring Place. Their financial commitment to a safe and secure building, providing an accessible comfortable family style living/working area and many other supporting areas such as staff, maintenance and other was essential for The Caring Place to continue to operate. Most important though for the members of the First Presbyterian Church was making The Caring Place part of their congregation mission to provide love, support and care for local families.



We can't thank everyone enough for all the help and work that has gone into providing this service to our community. We want to extend our prayers and best wishes to all families as they transition away from The Caring Place.



Remembering

Rachel Yates

The crowd swelled outside the convention center. They had a cause and a destination. The energy was high as hundreds began their march down the major street that ran between the convention center and the courthouse. Traffic couldn't pass and had to be re-routed. Arm-in-arm, they marched and sang and chanted. After rallying at the courthouse and taking the action they had plotted ahead of time, the protesters returned by the same route.

Three panicky city residents stood in bewilderment on the corner, where I encountered them. "Where did they go? I saw them coming down the street, but now they've just disappeared," one business owner said. "I don't know," replied another, "I was worried they were going to break my glass windows." "No," I explained, "we're Presbyterians. We just went back into the convention center for more meetings."

This march was organized at our 223rd General Assembly in St. Louis to protest against the practice of cash bail and to make a donation toward the bail of people confined on minor charges. That day, windows weren't smashed, nor buildings broken down. Something much more biblically radical happened: we proclaimed liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. (Isaiah 61:1 NRSV).

At yesterday's Presbytery Gathering, we shifted our Matthew 25 focus to the issue of criminal justice reform, including the issue of cash bail. Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul, our guest speaker, addressed criminal justice problems that exist in our state, cash bail among them. He distinguished the federal release system in which the judge weighs two considerations: is the arrested person a danger; and is the person a flight risk? If the answer to either is yes, the person is detained until trial or released on conditions.

The state system is different, with cash bail set for minor offenses and with no showing of flight risk. People end up detained for months until trial because they don't have bail money, the Attorney General explained, and not because they're inherently dangerous or evil people.

In contrast, we see examples of people charged with capital crimes who are released because they can afford to post million-dollar bail. Security is not heightened by keeping poor people behind bars, while the wealthy go free. Attorney General Kaul cautioned against any criminal justice system that treats people differently because of their wealth. The repercussions are severe.

Unjustly detaining people because of their poverty can mean they lose their jobs, their homes, their transportation, and sometimes custody of their children. When they are released, they're in an even worse position. The cycle of poverty is perpetuated.

During our Presbytery worship, we focused on both Matthew 25's admonition to visit those in prison and Hebrews 13:3: "Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured." Were we in prison ourselves, what would bring hope? Perhaps the possibility of release before a full and fair trial, the comfort that the Church was advocating on my behalf to government and judicial officials for reforms and humane treatment, the naming and tearing down of systems that disproportionately harm those in poverty and Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color, or shared communion with the jail chaplain.

These are but a few of these ways we hope the Presbytery will embrace this segment of our Matthew 25 vision. Watch for upcoming opportunities to learn and to act. Together, let us remember those who are in prison, rather than rendering them invisible.



The Quick Fix

Rachel Yates

I grew up watching Doan's commercials. Each began with actors bending over, then wincing as they grabbed their back. Downing a couple of Doan's pills, they would instantly be shown doing some crazy maneuver, like felling a tree or hoisting the davenport (as it was called then). To me, these pills seemed like a very bad idea. The person was obviously injured. The pain was saying, "Take it easy, and let your back heal." Instead, the actor popped two pills to mask the pain and immediately resumed strenuous activities that would aggravate the injury.

Perhaps because those commercials came at a formative stage, I don't take medicine whenever I can avoid it. I rarely take pain relievers, recognizing pain as a symptom of something that needs attention. I practice a healthy diet to lower my cholesterol instead of statins. I don't use cold medicine because a runny nose and cough are my body's way of getting rid of the virus.

As soon as I'm eligible, I will get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Some charge the promotion of masks and social distancing and the vaccine as fearmongering. I'm not afraid to die, but (1) I'd rather not die in 2021 because I've made other plans; and (2) I'd rather not die gasping for breath in a confined ward of other dying people, unable to see my family. That sounds like really cruddy way to die.

With our improved understanding of COVID-19, I might recover. From what I've learned about the continuing fatigue and scar tissue in the lungs, survival doesn't sound very pleasant either. I'd rather avoid the coronavirus altogether.

Similarly, I'd rather not die in a car accident by smashing through the front windshield and landing on the pavement. So, I wear my seatbelt. Simple protective measures might not make me impervious, but they significantly improve my odds. In that sense, the vaccine is all about me.

Until we know whether a vaccinated person can still transmit the virus to others, the vaccine is also about us. For all the reasons that I don't want to get the virus, I also don't want to give it to you. That means I'm going to continue wearing a mask after I'm vaccinated unless you are, too.

Until we have confidence that the vast majority of people in this country are vaccinated, we won't emerge. Businesses will limp along, churches will remain split between virtual and in-person gatherings, and travel will be limited. If we love this country and want it to come roaring back, we need to do our patriotic duty and get vaccinated. If we love our neighbors as ourselves, we need to do our Christian duty and get vaccinated.

I give thanks to God for the tens of thousands of volunteers who participated in the vaccine trials, so we could establish their efficacy and safety. Now, it's our turn to honor the healthcare workers who have endured so much for us and to remember those we've lost in the pandemic.

When it's your turn, get vaccinated. Help people get registered for their vaccination or drive them to their appointments. Have trustworthy conversations with anyone who is reluctant to get the vaccine. We can do this. We just can't do it alone.



APRIL 4 Easter Sunday
10:00 AM Communion Sunday
Worship
Sanctuary
11:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt



APRIL 5
6:00 PM Session Meeting

APRIL 11
10:00 AM Worship
Sanctuary

APRIL 14
6:30 PM Deacons' Meeting
Oak Room

APRIL 18
10:00 AM Worship
Sanctuary

APRIL 25
10:00 AM Worship
Sanctuary

*see article

Vacations: Rev. Glen - April 29
Therese - April 8, 12 and 13

Please note office hours are Monday
through Thursday,
8:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

April Birthdays

4/9 Sara Winkelmann
4/10 Evie Vrakas
4/21 Marion Ryan
4/21 John Schreiber
4/21 Dawn Noska
4/23 Marion Davison
4/25 Penny Goodyear
4/25 Kristi Margis
4/25 David Schultz
4/26 Ann Stover
4/30 Alex Du Mez



Everything Has Its Time

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up
what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time
to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain
from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.*

~Ecclesiastes 3:1-18





H O L Y · W E E K

Maundy Thursday (April 1):

7:00 PM Faith Springs invites us to their Maundy Thursday service. Rev. Katie Ebel will lead worship. N13W28771 Silvernail Road; Pewaukee

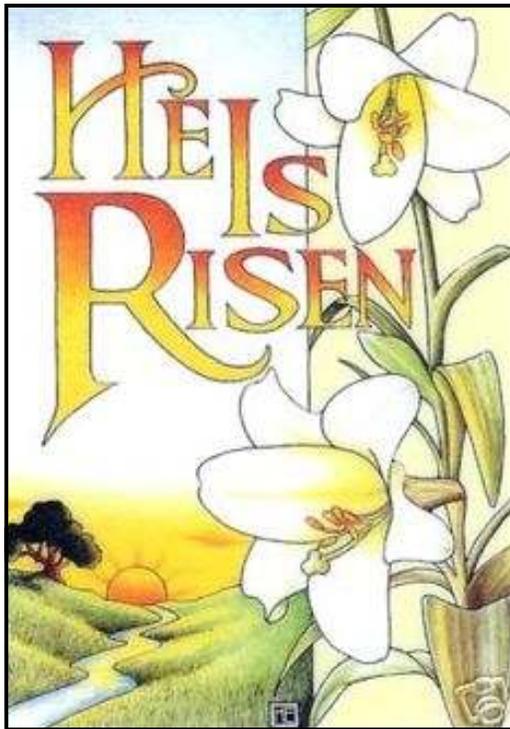
Good Friday (April 2):

7:00 PM This year, First Presbyterian will host a Good Friday service.

Easter Sunday (April 4):

10:00 AM Easter worship service - We celebrate joyfully the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

11:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt

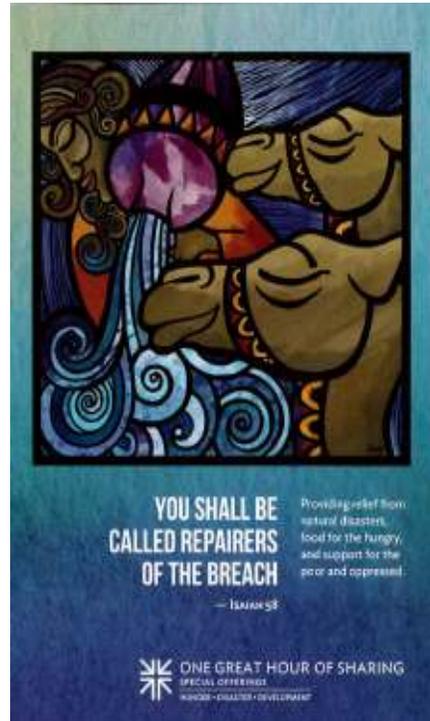


Easter Egg Hunt

Immediately after worship on Easter Sunday, April 4, kids of all ages are welcome. Details to be determined.



One Great Hour of Sharing



Each year we participate in the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** sponsored by the PC(USA). Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with those in need.

Your generous gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Please consider contributing to the **One Great Hour of Sharing**. It will be collected from February 17th through April 4th.



Have something for the **May** newsletter? Please send it to

presby1@sbcglobal.net

or drop it in Therese's mailbox by **Thursday, April 15** to have it included. Any items received after the 16th will be included in the Summer newsletter.



First Pres Sunday Service

Did you know you can view any previous Sunday service???

Go to our website, www.firstpreswaukesha.org and from the homepage select the Online Worship for the current Sunday's Service. A printable .pdf copy of the bulletin is available for that service as well.

You can also view the complete Sunday Service by visiting: **YouTube.com** and type into the search bar - First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha; scroll down to the Latest from First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha and you can select the recorded service.



2021 Per Capita

Per Capita for 2021 in the Presbytery of Milwaukee remains at \$38.75. Please consider contributing your per capita so that First Presbyterian might use your share elsewhere in the budget. Per Capita is not taken from your regular contributions because it must be designated by you for this specific use.

Session Recap

In March the Session met with Mike Edwards (president of The Caring Place board) and Penny Goodyear (FPCW liaison to TCP) to discuss their future plans. They noted several challenges including staff retirements, limited attendance and changes in care for the elderly. They will keep us posted on how they decide to proceed.

The Session continues to discern the future of both the congregation and the building. We decided to facilitate conversations with Berg Capital Management and St. Joseph's Clinic to determine any interest they might have in the building. The Presbytery also encouraged us to contact Vernon Presbyterian Church to see if there is any interest in possibly joining with them.

With the decrease in Covid cases there was a discussion on when we should resume worship services in person. It was noted there were fewer new cases per day than when we resumed last summer. We decided to have a Special Meeting of the Session to discuss this in greater detail. During Holy Week, there would be an in-person service at FPCW for Good Friday.

Mission work continues to be a priority for FPCW. We decided to support the WASH (draft water, sanitation and hygiene) program for South Sudan through USAID. The support was enough for the installation of a water well.





In a time of great challenge to our nation's health and economy, we see new heroes rise daily to meet those challenges in our local communities. Waukesha Sunrise Rotary Club would like to honor those special people in a unique way. Your own hero might be a military veteran, friend, neighbor, co-worker, or a family member. Please consider celebrating them with a personalized flag in our Flags for Heroes holiday display.

Flags will be flown 4 times in 2021 (Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4th & Labor Day) on Tower Place, off Hwy 164/I-94. Your flag will be tagged with the name of your hero.

Thanks to our partnering site sponsor, Heart of America, for their support:

- The Machine Shed
- Wildwood Lodge
- Thunder Bay Grille
- Holiday Inn Express

The annual fee for an individual sponsorship is \$50.00

Please complete the lower portion of the form & return it with your payment to:
Waukesha Sunrise Rotary Charitable Fund, PO Box 362, Waukesha WI 53187-0362

Choose a Payment Option:

1. Clip & return below form with your Check to address above.
2. Click link below and fill out everything online.

[Go to Flags for Heroes Webpage](#)

Questions?

Email us at: flags@waukesha-sunrise-rotary.org or Call/Text Greg Hatt: (262) 391-1059

Yes, I want to sponsor a Flag for my personal hero!

Your Hero's Name(s): _____

Your Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Waukesha Sunrise Rotary Charitable Fund is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Donations to Flags for Heroes are tax deductible.



EASTER WEEK

*See the land, her Easter keeping,
Rises as her Maker rose.
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping,
Burst at last from winter snows.
Earth with heaven above rejoices;
Fields and gardens hail the spring,
Shaugh and woodlands ring with voices,
While the wild birds build and sing
You, to whom your Maker granted
Powers to those sweet birds unknown,
Use the craft by God implanted,
Use the reason not your own.
Here, while heaven and earth rejoices,
Each his Easter tribute bring-
Work of fingers, chant of voices,
Like the birds who build and sing.*

~Charles Kingsley

