

March 31 & April 7, 2024

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'"

~ John 20:20-23



Easter has now come and gone. Regardless of the frequency of your church attendance, I'd guess that you and most people you know attended an Easter service somewhere. And what a refreshing service Easter Sunday is! We get to sing hymns that are only sung on that specific Sunday, some come in their Sunday best, maybe you get to have a fancy Easter meal with family, and we get to celebrate the reality that Jesus Christ is risen! We get to rejoice and exclaim "He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!"

We are all refreshed, perhaps revived with a new spirit and fervor... until the meal is over and we have to clean up. Or until Monday or Tuesday morning comes around and we have to go back to work. Where did all that joy and gusto of Easter morning go?

Like the disciples, we were glad when we saw the Lord. And you heard these words in the Easter service (and every service), "Peace be with you." Even in our gladness, Jesus still comes to us and says the same thing as when we are afraid.

The reality is that even though we have that gladness on Easter morning, all too quickly the minutiae of the daily grind sets back in. This is not unique to us and our time. As the disciples were glad and rejoicing that Jesus had returned, Jesus gives them His peace, and in the same breath sends them out. "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

So what does it look like post-Easter for us? Is it just a morning celebration? A time to hide Easter eggs, eat too much candy, and then get back to daily living? Or has Jesus tasked us with a new duty in which to serve God and the world?

If that last question scares you, let me counter it with this: Peace be with you!

Post-resurrection, we are now all called to go out into the world as God sent the Son, this is true. But Jesus doesn't hang his disciples out to dry, nor does he do that to us, as his disciples now. Instead, in the wake of Easter, he breathed on them the Holy Spirit. It is this same Spirit that breathes new life into each of us.

Jesus doesn't wait for the disciples to peek out of the locked room. He doesn't wait for us to muster up the confidence to step out into the world. He tells us to be at peace, and then breathes his word of forgiveness on us.

It is in that Word that we go out into the world! It is in that Word that we trust and faith is created. In that Word we have full confidence that as Jesus has taken our sins with him to the grave and has risen, we too are given new life! Life to live at peace in the name of Jesus now and forever.

Blessings and love, Pastor Christy

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CONNECT WITH US

We want to encourage you to make church a priority and join us in person on Sundays at 8:15, W@9 or 10:30 a.m. If you are unable to attend, we have our:

RADIO MINISTRY Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on KHUT 102.9, and
W@9 ONLINE at fpchutch.org.

Your prayers and financial support are vital to our work and ministry. God is still at work! Offering boxes are positioned in the sanctuary, or you can mail in your offering or sign up to give online at fpchutch.org.

We are the Church!

CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

Chimes Note

Deadline for next issue of *Chimes* will be **10:00 a.m. Monday, April 8**, for the issue covering April 14—27.

Chancel Flower Calendar

April 7, 14, 21 & 28 and May 12 & 19 are open dates on the 2024 chancel flower calendar. If you would like to provide flowers for worship one of these days, please contact Brittany in the church office: brittany@fpchutch.org or 620-665-5549, ext. 1, by the preceding Monday.

EARTH MATTERS



Did you know that Americans throw away 25 TRILLION Styrofoam cups every year? Styrofoam is not biodegradable.

KEEP IN PRAYER

For those in the hospital or hurting

For all FPC shut-ins



BIRTHDAYS

1	Richard Sunner	8	Braxton Bobo
1	Sam Rothe-Stanley	9	Zaccerie Penka
2	Max Stewart	9	Dale Turner
3	Rose Albright	9	Claire Fee
4	Margaret Kennedy	11	Laura Dick
5	Chris Showalter	12	Jennifer Forker
5	Isabel Romero	12	Kathy Small
6	Ted Kimmel	13	Margaret Parks
7	Joe Ontjes	13	J.C. Petitjean



I wonder have you taken the time to reflect on how important and special Easter is? When I think of Easter on the first words that springs into my mind is "HOPE." Jesus brings hope to a hopeless world. Without Easter Sunday and our "Risen Lord" life would be pointless. If God wasn't actually there then all that is left is utter hopelessness. We should never want to put our hope in Jesus simply because it makes us feel better. We should only put our hope in Jesus because there are good reasons to believe Christianity is true. Christian hope only matters if, and only if, Christianity is true.

We should never want to put our hope in Jesus simply because it makes us feel better. We should only put our hope in Jesus because there are good reasons to believe Christianity is true. The truth test for Christianity is the resurrection. Unfortunately, to many people have lost hope and have got the wrong idea of what it means to follow Jesus. They stop believing in Jesus because they haven't experienced a certain answer to prayer, they haven't experienced God in the way they'd like or any number of other reasons that have nothing to do with whether Christianity is true.

The apostle Paul gives us the actual truth test for Christianity in 1 Corinthians 15:14: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." If Jesus wasn't raised from the dead, we can pack our Christian bags and go home. There is much evidence for the resurrection and the evidence should be found in our lives. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we have a hope that should change how we live our lives. His resurrection confirms we can trust in his promises of eternal life—an eternal life where every tear will be wiped away, and suffering and death will be no more Rev. 21:4.

That's a hope worth hungering and longing for. That's a hope that should change how we see everything in this life. The greatest gift of Easter is a certain hope of eternity with Jesus. It's a gift that should wet our appetites to hunger after Jesus for the rest of our lives.

EARTH MATTERS

As we celebrate Earth Week 2024, let's learn and teach reverence for the miraculous planet we have been given and preserve it for those that follow us. Help recycle electronic waste (e-waste) and prevent it going to the landfill. Bring your old, worn-out electronics to the church starting April 14. All will be collected by Sunday, April 28. Collection boxes will be at both the east and south doors. All e-Waste will go to Sanford's Computer Works, 20 S. Main to be taken apart, recycled, and reused.



E-waste (*anything with a plug*) is currently the fastest growing solid waste stream in the world, outpacing plastic. In 2019, 53.6 million TONS of e-waste was produced, while documentation showed that only 17.4% of that was recycled. Lead, a toxic substance, leaches into the soil when e-waste is thrown into the trash or is released into the air with open burning.

Sanford's will receive all e-waste items with the exception of old-style cathode TVs. Examples of e-waste are cell phones, I-pads, computers, printers, calculators, VCRs, copiers, fax machines, power activated tools with batteries (building and garden), stereos, DVD and video game players, flat screen TVs, microwaves.

EARTH MATTERS appreciates larger items taken to Sanford's individually and not collected at the church.

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING THE FAITH AND GOD'S GREEN EARTH!

JOB OPENING



Urgently Hiring!! Do you have a passion for working with kids? FPC is looking for a Nursery worker. Hours are be 9:00—11:30a.m. on Sundays. This is a paid position.

If you are interested, please contact Keith:

keitheneill@yahoo.com 620-899-8412 620-665-5549 ext. 4

ENDOWMENT FUND

Have you considered leaving a gift to the First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund in your will or trust? This is another way you can help ensure the sustainability of our church, in addition to your annual pledge. Talk to your attorney and discuss making a gift in your estate documents to be distributed to the First Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund, Hutchinson, Kansas, to be used for the general fund (or one of the many funds held in the Endowment Fund). Your legacy will allow the church to continue its mission for the benefit of others well into the future.



STEPHEN MINISTRY



Stephen Ministry training for me has been a great experience. I am grateful to our church for providing the opportunity. It has helped me toward a goal of focusing more on others and less on myself - not easy, but potentially rewarding. My prayer is that through Stephen Ministries and the Holy Spirit, God's love will be shown to others providing guidance, comfort and encouragement.

Blessings,
Sam Ontjes

PARISH PERSONALS

- Thank you Sheri Van Buren, for delivering a bouquet of flowers from the March 10 Church services. The sprays were a beautiful floral memorial for the families of Jim and Karen Gilliland, Patty Crews Parker and Hunt Parker. Thank you for the blessings of the flowers and your visit.—Shirley Brandyberry
- Dear FPC Family,
I'm reaching out with a heart full of gratitude to each one of you for your incredible support and generosity toward the needs at Lincoln-McCandless. Your actions truly embody the spirit of giving and community. From the Mission Committee's offer to fund and organize school-wide snacks for the entire school year, to our church community enthusiastically replenishing our snack pantry, we've seen remarkable generosity in action. Your collective efforts have been nothing short of AMAZING! Our student body at Lincoln-McCandless, where over 90 percent of students are eligible for free and reduced meals, faces significant challenges. Our food pantry initiative is a crucial resource aimed at assisting families to bridge the gap between meals over the weekends. For many, this pantry also serves as a mid-week lifeline by providing necessary sustenance to families in need. Upon learning our pantry was starkly depleted, the FPC congregation more than met our needs and it is solely through your donations that we have been able to continue this vital service. The transformation was palpable when the FPC youth group filled the pantry to the brim, presenting an array of new and appealing food options. Kathy, our counselor, shared the joy and excitement evident in the students' reactions as their faces lit up with the promise of new and tasty food items for the weekend. I am elated to share that our pantry is now well-stocked for the foreseeable future, even extending into the next academic year. This is truly a testament to God's work through the compassionate actions of the FPC congregation. Thank you, FPC community, for being a beacon of hope and for demonstrating what it truly means to be the hands and feet of God's work and exemplifying the community's role in supporting each other in times of need. Your generosity, compassion, and willingness to step up have made a significant difference in the lives of our students and their families. With deepest appreciation,
Libby Schultz and the Lincoln-McCandless Community





**American
Red Cross**

**Hutchinson Community
Blood Drive**

Fri., March 29

Park Place Church

Mon., April 1 - Wed., April 3

First Presbyterian Church

Schedule your appointment today!

RedCrossBlood.org | Blood Donor App
Sponsor Code: **Hutchinson**

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Friday 8:30am - 12:30pm



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