

The First Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville *The Good News-Letter*

April 2024



Earth Day Facts to Know About

Earth Day Was First Celebrated in 1970 - Prior to the first Earth Day, Americans were guzzling up vast amounts of leaded petrol ó the global use of which has since been eradicated ó and deadly smog and polluting smoke were accepted daily occurrences. But following a series of oil spills and emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, people are keen to take action to stop the environmental degradation. Inspired by the energetic anti-Vietnam war protest movement by students, a US Senator named Gaylord Nelson introduced a teach-in on college campuses on environmental awareness, which eventually snowballed into the global movement it is today.

Earth Day Is the Largest Secular Observance in the World - Despite being celebrated almost exclusively in the US for almost 20 years, Earth Day has now become an internationally recognized day and is celebrated across more than 192 countries. Every year, 1 billion individuals across the globe are united and mobilized for the same cause ó greater environmental awareness and climate action.

Earth Day Always Takes Place on April 22 - Senator Nelson originally picked out April 22 for the first Earth Day as it fell right between Spring Break and final exams, maximizing the greatest student participation and turnout for the event. It's been kept on the same day to encourage even more college students to join in celebrations and protests, and every year, thousands of rallies, concerts, and outdoor activities are organized worldwide.

Earth Day Cemented Many Major Environmental Policies - The first edition of Earth Day kicked off the national conversation on the lack of environmental laws in the country, which led to the adoption of some of the most important and comprehensive federal laws on environmental protection. This included the Clean Air Act (1970), the Clean Water Act amendment (1972), and the 1973 Endangered Species Act. In 2016, the United Nations also chose Earth Day to sign the Paris Agreement, the world's most important and comprehensive climate agreement for limiting global warming to below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century.

Earth Day Wants Us to 'Invest in Our Planet' This Year - Each edition of Earth Day has a different theme. For 2023, the movement seeks to highlight the importance of collaboration and investing our resources and energy in the race to net-zero emissions. The official website states that, "We need to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). It's going to take all of us. All in. Businesses, governments, and citizens ó everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable. A partnership for the planet."

From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

The time leading up to Easter is full of emotion. Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem and went there in full knowledge of the danger. He rode in triumph into the city amid shouts and cheering and demonstrations of public support. He preached again in a few days many of the stories He had told over a period of three years in the countryside. Popularity didn't save Him from becoming the target of the jealousy of the Religious leaders. He washed the feet of the disciples and started the practice of Communion. He was tried, crucified. He died and rose from death. In the church, we remembered all of these things: the high and low points of the journey and especially the joy of Easter.

In the weeks after Easter, the disciples spent some time hiding from the people who had killed Jesus, some time experiencing the wonder of the good news that Jesus rose, some time receiving forgiveness, and some time coming to the realization of what their future would hold. This is a time when many Christians feel a little tired and emotionally drained from Holy Week and a little tempted to take a break from church activities. If you take a break, don't take a long one. Please come and take the journey with us, from hiding to feeling the power of forgiveness to leading boldly in Jesus' name. We will learn a lot about ourselves and realize, as the disciples did, how we are equipped to share God's love with the people around us.

See you in church!

In Christ's love,
Martha

Prayer for April

Lord, help us to experience the wonder of the gift Your Son has given for us in a fresh new way, helped by the season of spring, the season of Easter, and all of the new things we see happening all around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Worship Ministry

Spring is finally here, and all the beautiful spring flowers such as daffodils and hyacinths are popping up. Our weather has been fluctuating between very warm and back to freezing. It must really be confusing these poor plants. Hopefully, nice warm weather and April showers will bring us more of God's beautiful landscape.

Our Holy Week events went very well, with Communion served on Easter Sunday, March 31st. It was wonderful to have Bill Hooper back with us on the organ! Thank you, Nancy Popoloski for everything you do always.

Please note that our next scheduled Communion will be on Sunday, May 19th, which is Pentecost.

April 22, Earth Day is an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by Earthday.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. Earth Day's mission and official theme for 2024 is "Planet vs. Plastics." Earthday.org is unwavering in its commitment to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of ALL plastics by 2040. Their theme, "Planet vs. Plastics," calls to advocate for widespread awareness on the health risk of plastics, rapidly phase out all single use plastics, urgently push for a strong UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution, and demand an end to fast fashion. Let's help build a plastic-free planet for generations to come!

On April 28th, Martha will be at Bethlehem Church for its annual Chocolate 5K Run/Walk. We are extremely happy to have our dear friend Lynn Costa with us again in the pulpit. It will be so wonderful to see Lynn again.

We hope to see you all in worship.

Blessings,

The Worship Committee

April 2024

First Presbyterian Church

	1 7:30 PM Dr. Bobø's Group	2 7:00 PM Troop 416	3 8:00 PM A.A.	4 9:30 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Choir 7:00 N.A.	5	6 Josef's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bobø's Group
7 9:30 Worship 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	8 7:30 PM Dr. Bobø's Group	9 7:00 PM Troop 416	10 8:00 PM A.A.	11 9:30 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Choir 7:00 N.A.	12	13 Josef's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bobø's Group
14 9:30 Worship 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	15 7:30 PM Dr. Bobø's Group	16 7:00 PM Troop 416	17 8:00 PM A.A.	18 9:30 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Choir 7:00 N.A.	19	20 Josef's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bobø's Group
21 9:30 Worship 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	22 Earth Day 7:30 PM Dr. Bobø's Group	23 7:00 PM Troop 416	24 8:00 PM A.A.	25 9:30 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Choir 7:00 N.A.	26	27 Josef's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bobø's Group
28 9:30 Worship Elder Lynn Costa 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	29 7:30 PM Dr. Bobø's Group	30 7:00 PM Troop 416				

First Presbyterian Church
of Washingtonville

Session Moderator
Rev. Martha Carlson

Clerk of Session
Deborah Chedister

The Session
Nancy Bruscano 2024
Lois Dunikowski 2024*
Mark Chedister 2025
Debra Van Regenmortel 2026
Bobbie Trager 2026*

Board of Deacons
Peggy Wright 2024*
Jorus Beasley 2025
Hanora Sullivan 2026

*indicates second term

Pastor
Rev. Martha Carlson

Organist
Bill Hooper

Office Manager
Cynthia Carey

30 Goshen Avenue
Washingtonville NY
845-496-3814

fpcwashingtonville@gmail.com

Rev. Martha Carlson
revmpc86@yahoo.com

First Presbyterian Church
www.fpcw.makeswebsites.com

Presbytery of Hudson River
www.hudrivpres.org

April Birthdays



06	Sue Hegmann
19	Nancy Bruscano
21	Debbie Woodmansee

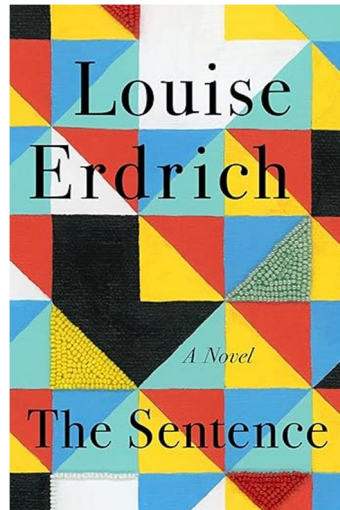
Earth Day How You Can Get Involved

Climate change is undoubtedly the biggest environmental issue we face today, and we are running out of time to combat it. The latest reports published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warn that global temperatures will very likely rise 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by 2040, and it's now or never to limit global warming. Despite the progress on climate pledges, it is clearly not enough. But we have all the tools and options to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

1. **Civil Action** - Public pressure and civil society mobilization are the greatest tool in global shed to drive institutional and systemic changes. Hold politicians, governments and companies across sectors accountable for their actions ó target organizations and businesses that are linked to fossil fuel industries, deforestation, and harmful activities to the environment that could lead to the loss of habitats and biodiversity. Whether it is the fast fashion industry that is generating millions tons of textile waste and wastewater, or the companies that neglect plastic pollution, you can use your voice and make a difference. From local petitions and advocacy to large-scale boycotts and protests, there's no action too small.

2. **Individual Action** - We can achieve a sustainable future for us with our combined efforts, if every individual in the world make changes to their lifestyles. You can make it a habit to join in community reforestation efforts or beach cleanups. On the individual level, simple switches to plant-based diets (or at least reduce meat consumption) can alleviate significant stress on deforestation and emissions in the agricultural sector; eliminating single-use plastics and replace them with reusable and recyclable materials; giving up fast fashion in support of sustainable fashion; opting for public transportation and low-emission means of transport such as biking and electric cars can all go a long way. Don't forget, daily acts of composting and recycling are not to be underestimated in reducing your carbon footprint.

“The Sentence”
by Louise Erdrich



Dazzling. . . . A hard-won love letter to readers and to booksellers, as well as a compelling story about how we cope with pain and fear, injustice and illness. One good way is to press a beloved book into another's hands. Read *The Sentence* and then do just that."ô USA Today, Four Stars

In this New York Times bestselling novel, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Awardó winning author Louise Erdrich creates a wickedly funny ghost story, a tale of passion, of a complex marriage, and of a woman's relentless errors. Louise Erdrich's latest novel, *The Sentence*, asks what we owe to the living, the dead, to the reader and to the book. A small independent bookstore in Minneapolis is haunted from November 2019 to November 2020 by the store's most annoying customer. Flora dies on All Souls' Day, but she simply won't leave the store. Tookie, who has landed a job selling books after years of incarceration that she survived by reading "with murderous attention," must solve the mystery of this haunting while at the same time trying to understand all that occurs in Minneapolis during a year of grief, astonishment, isolation, and furious reckoning.

The Sentence begins on All Souls' Day 2019 and ends on All Souls' Day 2020. Its mystery and proliferating ghost stories during this one year propel a narrative as rich, emotional, and profound as anything Louise Erdrich has written.

The Savvy Soul Sisters of Syntax are reading this book for our May meeting. Date TBD.

If I Knew Then...

Read: Isaiah 26-27, Philippians 2

“In his great mercy [God] has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

1 Peter 1:3

On the way to work, I listened to the song “Dear Younger Me,” which asks: If you could go back, knowing what you know now, what would you tell your younger self? As I listened, I thought about the bits of wisdom I might give my younger, less-wise self. Most of us have thought about how we might do things differently if only we could do it all over again.

But the song illustrates that even though we have regrets from our past, all our experiences have shaped who we are. We can’t change the consequences of our choices or sin. Praise God we don’t have to carry the mistakes around with us. Because of what Jesus has done! “In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!” (1 Peter 1:3).

If we turn to Him in faith and sorrow for our sins, He will forgive us. On that day we’re made brand new and begin the process of being spiritually transformed (2 Cor. 5:17). It doesn’t matter what we’ve done (or haven’t done), we are forgiven because of what *He’s* done. We can move forward, making the most of today and anticipating a future with Him. In Christ, we’re free!

Reflect & Pray

Dear Lord, I am so thankful that through You we can be free of the burdens of the past—the mistakes, the pain, the sins—that hang so heavy.

We don’t need to carry around regret or shame.

We can leave them with You.

Our Daily Bread

With blessings of love from the Nurture Ministry

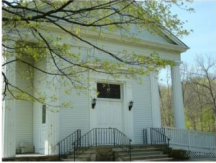
Calendar of Prayer for our Congregations and Leadership

The endorsed calendar of prayer is a way for us to be united. It's an awesome responsibility and gift to pray for one another. To make our offering on behalf of one another. Each member congregation, staff member, elected servant leader, ministry team, and mission commitment of our Presbytery is represented:

Palisades PC, Patterson PC, Theological Institutions, One Great Hour of Sharing, Otisville PC Mount Hope, Black Maternal/Birthing Health Week begins (4/11), International Day of Farmers' Struggles (4/17), First Church Ossining, Deborah Milcarek, General Presbyter, Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day (4/24), New Rochelle PC, Bethlehem PC New Windsor, Mental Health month begins on May 1



Call Cynthia at 845-496-3814 or send an email to firstpres@frontiernet.net
to share your news with our church family.



First Presbyterian Church
30 Goshen Avenue
Washingtonville NY 10992

