

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

April 2025

**Palm Sunday**

Sunday, April 13

**Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, April 17

**Good Friday**

Friday, April 18

**Easter**

Sunday, April 20



## From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, the crocuses are open, the daffodils are up, the peepers have started their nightly song and there is a chance of wintry mix over the weekend. This combination of circumstances reminds me of the season of Lent, which is continuing into April.

In the season of Lent, we often find ourselves focusing on Jesus's coming death. In that spirit, we give up some of our pleasures for Lent and think about all of the pleasures of human life that Jesus gave up to die for our sakes. But the Gospel lessons of Lent have a different focus. In them, we find Jesus arguing passionately in favor of mercy, not for himself, but for the people. He laments about how He has longed to shelter the people of Jerusalem. He persuades God to give the people three years, not a few days or hours, to listen to His teaching. Jesus loves vigorously.

When we have given something up for Lent, let's give it up not only so that we can share in Jesus's willingness to sacrifice earthly pleasures, but also so that we can focus more completely, as Jesus did, on God's love and mercy for us and for all of the people. Like the flowers of spring, God's love and mercy give us an Easter hope before we see the full beauty of Heaven.

See you in church!

Peace and joy,

Martha

### Prayer for April

Holy God, thank You for sending Jesus with a message of love and mercy as well as a willingness to give Himself to bring us back to a state of right relationship with You. Help us to rely confidently on Your love, even during anxious or grieving times, and to see the coming fullness of your goodness not only for ourselves, but for everyone who will turn to You.

### New Bible Study Series to Begin after Easter

The Bible Study is concluding a study of how the Bible calls us to care for the environment. Each lesson in this study is stand-alone; no need to have come to previous lessons to enjoy the last few. The study that we will begin after Easter is The Life of Paul for Today. This will be a more in depth look at how Paul's life and teaching has impacted the teaching of the church and how Paul calls us into a richer, more faithful spiritual life. We will be searching the book of Acts and the letters of Paul, and the context of Paul's life and writing, to see what this influential irritating man has to teach us about our faith and times. It's a great time to start or restart studying the Scriptures. Please join us! The study is currently held on Thursday morning 9:45 to 11. The schedule can be adjusted if needed to suit the people interested in participating.

## Worship Ministry

Spring has at last arrived, and the daffodils and forsythia and trees will all be in bloom. As we wait for these beautiful changes God gives us, we remember Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection.

Here is what Holy Week will look like at FPCW:

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025: We will be having the traditional strips of palm branch this year.

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025: Bethlehem has invited us to join them for a soup supper beginning at 6:30 p.m., followed by a worship service. We will not be having our own worship service at FPCW on Maundy Thursday.

Good Friday, April 18, 2025: We will be having a worship service at noon, followed by a Prayer Vigil in the sanctuary. A sign-up sheet with time slots is posted on the bulletin board for your use.

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025: Hamptonburgh Presbyterian is having an Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m., followed by breakfast at 7:00. Our Easter Worship Service will be held at 9:30 a.m. in our sanctuary, adorned with beautiful Easter Lilies. The Lord's Supper will be observed. The special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing will also be received.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Martha will be at Bethlehem Church for its annual Chocolate 5K Run/Walk. We are extremely happy to have Rev. Glenn Henricksen with us in the pulpit. It will be so wonderful to see him again.

We hope to see you all at church to celebrate the Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ! He Is Risen!

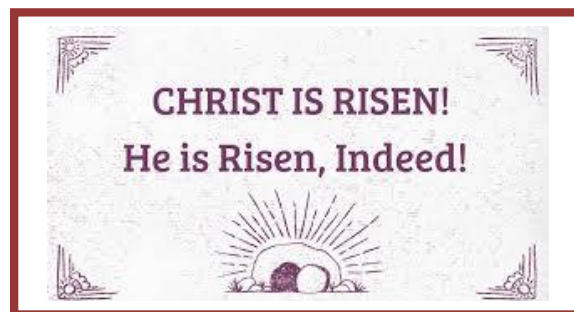
Blessings,

The Worship Committee

# April 2025

## First Presbyterian Church

		1 7:00 Troop 416	2 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 8:00 PM A.A.	3 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 N.A.	4	5 Josef's Cleaning 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
6 9:30 Worship 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	7 7:30 PM Dr. Bob's Group	8 7:00 Troop 416	9 8:00 PM A.A.	10 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 N.A.	11	12 Josef's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
13 9:30 Worship Palm Sunday 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	14 7:30 PM Dr. Bob's Group	15 7:00 Troop 416	16 8:00 PM A.A.	17 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 N.A. 6:30 Maundy Thursday at Bethlehem PC	18 12:00 PM Good Friday Prayer Vigil	19 Josef's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
20 <b>Easter Sunday!</b> 9:30 Worship 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	21 7:30 PM Dr. Bob's Group	22 7:00 Troop 416	23 8:00 PM A.A.	24 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 N.A.	25	26
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First Presbyterian Church  
of Washingtonville

Session Moderator  
Rev. Martha Carlson

Clerk of Session  
Deborah Chedister

The Session  
Nancy Bruscano 2025  
Mark Chedister 2025  
Bobbie Trager 2026\*  
Debra Van Regenmortel 2026

Board of Deacons  
Jorus Beasley 2025  
Mo Moss 2026  
Hanora Sullivan 2026  
Peggy Wright 2026\*

\*indicates second term

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[www.hudrivpres.org](http://www.hudrivpres.org)

## April Birthdays



6 Sue Hegmann  
19 Nancy Bruscano

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The 26th Walk for Housing will be held on April 27th this year.

New starting point: Mount St Mary College on DuBois St. Registration will be at 1:00 pm and step off at 2:00 pm. This will be a chance to see some early PresbyBuild houses as well as House #12!



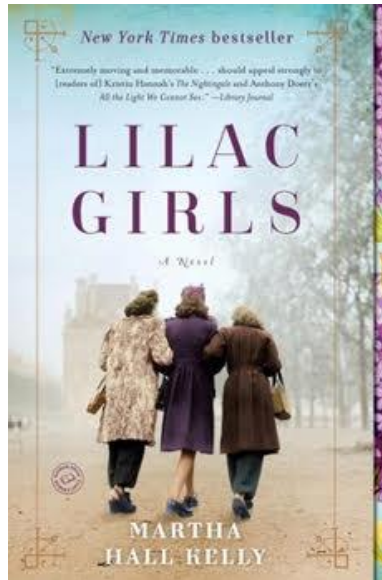
## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



When we give to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), we are combining our efforts with those across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to repair peoples' lives - people who are hurting, oppressed, lost or on the margins of society. The exact people about whom Isaiah (58:7) is speaking of. The people we are called to connect with every day, but especially in the light of the Good News of the resurrection.

## THE SAVVY SOULS SISTERS OF SYNTAX

### “Lilac Girls” by Martha Kelly



New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline's world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939--and then sets its sights on France.

An ocean away from Caroline, Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. In a tense atmosphere of watchful eyes and suspecting neighbors, one false move can have dire consequences.

For the ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power.

The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbr?ck, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women. Their stories cross continents--from New York to Paris, Germany, and Poland--as Caroline and Kasia strive to bring justice to those whom history has forgotten.

This book is next up for the Savvy Soul Sisters of Syntax to read and discuss.

## “Pull the Weeds of Worry”

Read: 1 Kings 1-2, Luke 19:28-48

[They hear] the word, but the worries of this life choke the word.  
Matthew 13:22

After burying a few seeds in a pot in my garden, I waited to see the results. Reading that the seeds would sprout within ten to fourteen days, I checked often as I watered the soil. Soon I saw a few green leaves pushing their way out of the soil. But my bubble burst quickly when my husband told me those were weeds. He encouraged me to pull them quickly so that they wouldn't choke the plants I was trying to grow.

Jesus also spoke about the importance of dealing with intruders that can impede our spiritual growth. He explained a portion of His parable this way: when a sower cast his seeds, some fell among thorns . . . and choked the plants (Matthew 13:7). Thorns, or weeds, will do just that to plants - stop their growth (v. 22). And worry will surely stunt our spiritual growth. Reading Scripture and praying are great ways to grow our faith, but I've found I need to watch out for the thorns of worry. They all choke the good word that has been planted in me, making me focus on what could go wrong.

The fruit of the Spirit, described in Scripture, includes such things as love, joy, peace (Galatians 5:22). But in order for us to bear that fruit, in God's strength we need to pull any weeds of doubt or worry that may distract us and cause us to focus on anything other than Him.

### Reflect & Pray

How is God helping you grow the seeds He's planted within you?  
How can you pull the weeds of worry?

*Dear Heavenly Father, please remind me to pull weeds often,  
discarding worry and deceitful thoughts so I may grow and bear fruit in You.*

## 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:

First Church Highland, Matthew 25: Build Vital Congregations Sunday, Brook PC Hillburn, Holy Week begins (4/14), International Day of Farmers' Struggles (4/17), For Faith Parish PC Hortonville, eborah Milcarek, General Presbyter, Earth Day (4/22), Irvington PC, HP Green Partnership Team, Presbyterian Foundation Staff, Mental Health month begins on May 1.



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



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