

The Leaven April 2020

SOULE SEARCHING



I had to smile when I saw the pictures on my phone. Howard and Carolyn Anderson had come to the church early Palm Sunday and spread the palm leaves on the steps leading to the front doors of our church. I had to look closely to see what they had done, and when I did, “Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord” shot through my mind. I hope others saw and recognized the message; the triumphant parade was still taking place, Jesus was being welcomed and praised as the Savior!



Then another picture came to mind. The first church I visited in Guatemala in February had strewn fresh pine needles on the walks leading to their sanctuary to welcome their guests that day. “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” I had never been welcomed in that manner before or perceived myself as one, “coming in the name of the Lord.” It put a whole new image of Palm Sunday in my mind. It also made me think how much I need to pray for these, my brothers and sisters in Christ. I promised them I would pray for them and this

was a good reminder. Carolyn Tillotson had also reminded me earlier in the week that we need to pray for them as the coronavirus spreads in their land and that they may remain strong and faithful in their witness and mission.



These images also reminded me how much I miss seeing each of you walk up the steps to the church and welcome one another as the family of God. That is why I appreciate so very much those of you who are able to participate in our website worship giving feedback about the service, or simply let us know that you are worshiping with us. It is one way we can quickly keep in touch. I also need to know if you have tried to get to the service but are not able to get it. If I can help, I will.

This Thursday evening we will have a Maundy Thursday service of worship and communion on the website. <fpclvks.org>. If possible, I ask you to watch it at 7:00 P. M. in hopes that we will all be participating at the same time. Of course, you may watch and worship anytime that works for you after it is put on our site (sometime early Thursday) until we post the Easter Service on Saturday. For the Maundy Thursday Communion, everyone will need to supply your own bread, grape juice or wine. Communion will be served during the first half of the service, followed by a journey to the cross from the Gospel of Luke.

An email will be sent with the bulletin and a link to the website for both the Maundy Thursday service and Easter worship. This is our attempt to make it as easy as possible to participate. One last thing to encourage you in staying the course during this pandemic is something I read in an article on hand washing this week. It was about a hospital that was working to cut its rate of infections that patients got while in their hospital. They were able to cut their infection rate by 90% by asking doctors and nurses how to get people to wash their hands. "In return they got stories of missing hand-gel dispensers, places that were out of soap, low supplies (necessitating a huffy trip back to an unsterile supply closet) and so on. With this information, they made changes, the staff bought in, compliance soared and patients benefited." Keep washing your hands! It makes a very big difference, as does staying in during this time. In fact, both are loving acts on behalf of all. These are things we can and must continue to do for one another.

This essay on handwashing -- simple, doable, and often avoided as it is -- raises the question of what similar, simple acts we in the church are failing to perform. What are we not doing now that we should be doing? What easy practice could we tackle more faithfully to save the lives of the people we love?

The most obvious answer is prayer. If doctors ought to wash their hands carefully, slowly, getting under every fingernail and up every elbow every time, we ought to pray. At length, not in a hurry, around every problem, every uncertainty, every time we engage with someone who has come to us. Our life and practice should just as literally be bathed in prayer, from beginning to end. Without it infection sets in. The ailment gets passed from person to person and is terribly hard to get rid of. One place to start might be to pray for someone while you are washing your hands. You can only sing, *Happy Birthday*, so many times. Why not set aside a few of your extra minutes during this Holy Week and Easter Season to pray. It is a powerful tool we often do not use. There are more needs than we can cover alone but if we are all doing this together we could unleash a powerful force for good for many.

Looking ahead to this weekend and our Easter celebration reminds me of the power of God to bring new life to a hurting and needy world.

Pray on my friends through Holy Week and Easter Day and beyond. It seems a little thing, but so is washing our hands.

Little things make big differences,
Tim

PRAYER CONCERNS

Immediate: Jeannie (Barbara-Sue Rose), Adam Nelson, Brianna Hoffman (Cindy Scircle), Aunt Harriett (Dick Gibson), Jeff (Cindy Scircle), Mark Denny (Anna and Shirley), Genie Bowman (Miriam and Jerry), Nick Proctor

Ongoing: Joe Hudson, Judy Jahn, Gladys Griffin (Maria Traynham), Barbara-Sue Rose, Maria Gordon (Carolyn Tillotson), Twila Corley, Jayce Ward (Cindy Scircle), Priscilla Conley (Sally Azbill), Al Pursell, Rocky Flynn Lessman (Nichols Family), Paul Wilde (Carolyn Anderson), Mary Hickie (Linda Barry), Marilyn Ferbert

A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME PLEASE ...

Pandemic or No Pandemic, Disaster, Hunger and Poverty Continue,
So Please Support the PC (U.S.A.) One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

To be sure, we've all had our minds on a lot of things lately as the coronavirus pandemic has affected the lives of billions of people around the world through the loss of relatives and close friends, illnesses that have required hospitalization or led conscientious individuals to self-quarantine, the postponement or cancellation of anticipated activities and events, and the disruption of regular day-to-day routines.

That said, we can't forget that there are thousands and thousands of people out there who are still dealing with the damage caused by hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, floods and earthquakes, or who go to bed hungry night after night, or who continue to lack the means necessary to earnestly pursue the hopes and dreams they have for themselves and their children. And this is why the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) One Great Hour of Sharing offering is so important, because it is through the gifts the offering brings in that houses are rebuilt, nutritious meals are put on the table, and various programs and projects that will empower the poor among us are funded.

In 2019, we raised more than \$2,000 as a church through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to support the work of Presbyterian Missions, and it is the hope of the Faithful Discipleship Committee that we will be able to exceed last year's total this year. Remember, if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Of the money that comes in through the offering, 32% is allocated for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, 36% for the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and 32% for the Self-Development of People effort.

As is usually the case, the offering will be received on Easter Sunday, which falls on Sunday, April 12 this year. To make a contribution, (1), write a check payable to the church and write "One Great Hour of Sharing" on the memo line, then mail the envelope to the church at 407 Walnut, Leavenworth, KS 66048, or (2), bring your OGHS check or cash, cash that has been placed in a envelope marked "One Great Hour of Sharing," to the church during regular

business hours, or (3), put your OGHS check or cash, cash that has been placed in a marked envelope, through the mail slot at the church during non-business hours, or (4), make a contribution online through the church's website, www.fpc-lvks.org, by clicking where it says "Donate".

Please continue to do whatever you can to stay healthy during the pandemic, please continue to pray for the health and well-being of yourself and others, and please prayerfully consider making a generous contribution to this year's One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Thank you.

Rick Nichols, member, Faithful Discipleship Committee

APRIL 18th SPRING CLEAN UP DAY HAS BEEN POSTPONED

WOMEN OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR SPRING GATHERING

Saturday, May 2, 2020

10:00am – Noon

There will be a program on the womens' suffrage movement in Kansas, with a concentration on Leavenworth, by a member of the Leavenworth County Historical Society. Refreshments of coffee, tea, juice, pastries and fruit will be served. We hope to see all of you there for what promises to be a very interesting talk!

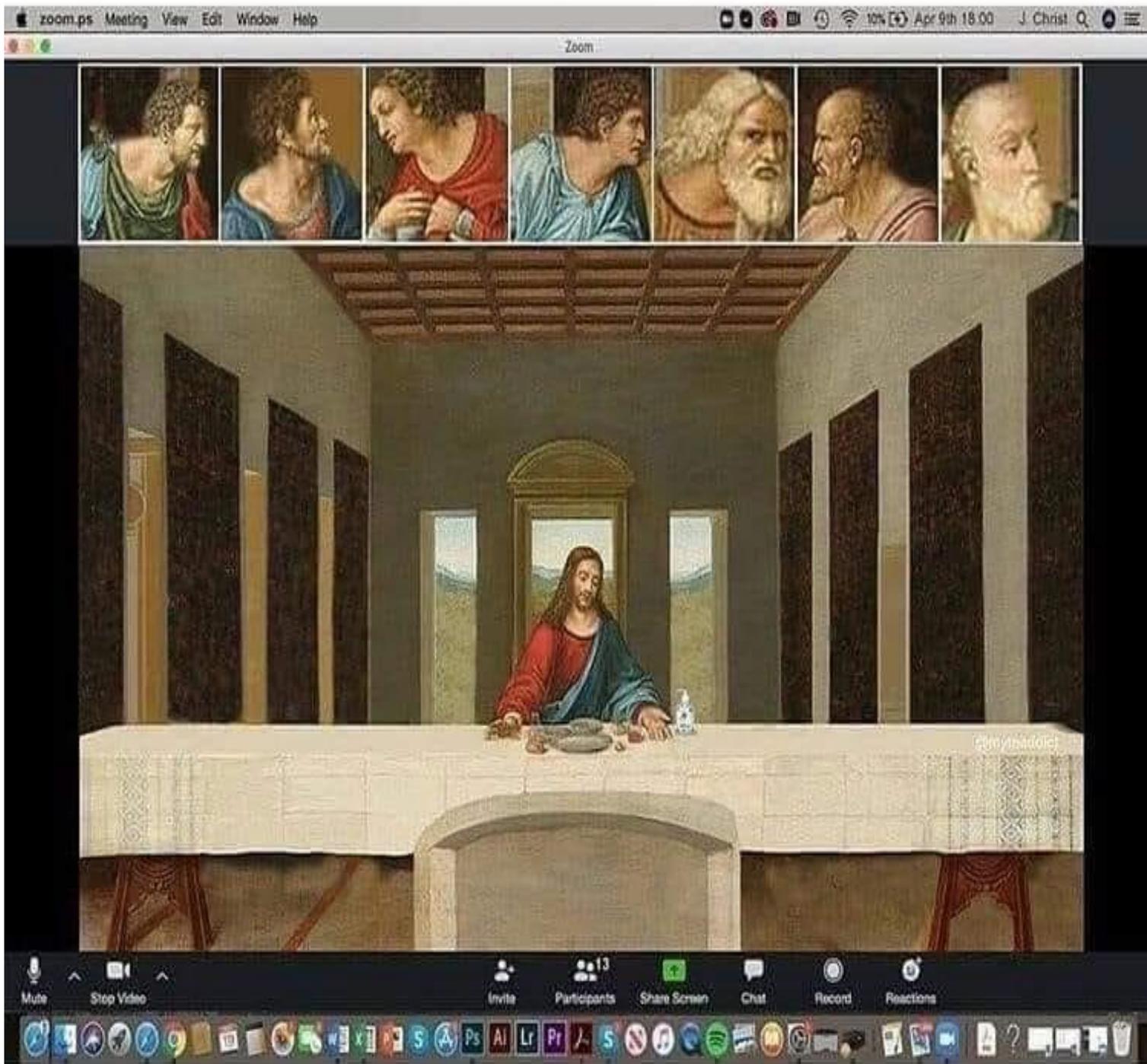
If you are not currently a member of one of our Circles and would like to join one, please contact Ginnie Strand at 651-0511.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

**2-Dody Marsh 10-Jacob Litewski 19-Judy Jahn 20-John Strand 21-David Nall
24-Gerald Carder 27-Cathy Corely 27-Shannon Porter 30-Cindy Geiger**

APRIL ANNIVERSARYS

1-Bill and Cindy Geiger 2-Gerald and Miriam Bowman 25- Gustavo and Katherine de la Cruz



Zoom Communion



The Easter Lilies glorify God and celebrate Christ's Resurrection.

They are given by:

Howard and Carolyn Anderson

in memory of

Loved ones who have passed away

in recognition of:

Aunt Betty Michaelini-100 years old January 24, 2020

Chris Aus

in memory of

Gary Aus

Bob and Barbara Tank

Millard and Margaret Aus

Gerry and Miriam Bowman

in honor of

Genie Bowman

in recognition of

Edith Almagro-Pérez

Howard and Joyce Kirk

in honor of mother

Ann MacConnachie

In recognition of

Al Pursell

Bill and Cindy Geiger

In memory of

Edwin and Helen Dickson

Bill and Lura Geiger

David Nall

in memory of

My beloved wife, Lois Nall

Dennis Goodwin and Rodney Schwatkin

in memory of

Our parents and grandparents

Rev. Tim and Debbie Soule

in memory of

Our parents

Linda Huggins

in recognition of

50th Anniversary Earth Day 04-22-2020

John and Ginnie Strand

in honor of

The Risen Lord

Anna Hurt and Shirley Rockwell

in memory of

The Hurt, Denney and Rockwell families

Carolyn Tillotson

in honor of

Maya Quichè Presbytery