

First  
Presbyterian  
Church

# The Call



## April Newsletter

www.fpcgburg.org

### Church Services

Sunday  
Morning  
10:30 a.m.

Services are  
recorded  
to be shared  
on our website  
and facebook  
page

www.fpcgburg.org  
&  
@FirstPresbyterian  
Gburg

### Sunday Conversations Class

Sunday  
Morning  
9:15 a.m.



### What is all this talk about Holy Humor Sunday?



As this Walrus Joke (to the left) depicts, life is full of changes. These poor Walrus have to find a new mode for prayer, more fitting for a Walrus with tusks.

During this year of pandemic, so many of our "ways of life" have changed, too. It has been an uncomfortable amount of change, far too quickly.

And now, Pastor Garrett and I want to change things once again by celebrating Holy Humor. What? That can't be appropriate! Who on earth goes to church to laugh? We do! And... we hope you will, too!

After a year like this, we need an opportunity for laughter. Understandably, laughter is often

one of the first things to go when we experience times of great stress and anxiety. Yet, laughing is good for our bodies. It literally releases chemicals that are physically healing. And spiritually, it helps us reconnect to God who is a marvelous comedian. Nobody wants to attend the church that doesn't know how to laugh together!

If you're still concerned about bringing the custom to First Presbyterian, however, don't worry, Pastor Garrett and I did not invent Holy Humor Sunday.

Actually, the custom is rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "Risus paschalis - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it.

For centuries, many faith traditions celebrated this Sunday with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.



Continued on page 3



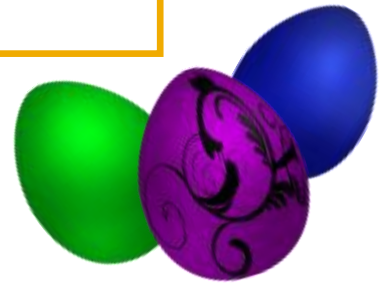
## Ladies! Females! Women!

If you are reading this, you are probably a Presbyterian Woman.

We are having an indoor picnic April 14, at noon for all of our PW and Friendship & Talent ladies.

Bring your own lunch and drink.

It will be a social time and a planning for the future time.



## Holy Week

Holy Week Worship

Posted Online on Thursday, April 1 at 6 p.m.

The pandemic has been challenging in so many ways, yet there are things we have learned through this time. One is about filming. Garrett nor I endeavored filming worship services before last March, yet there truly is a lot one can do with this art form. Garrett and I are far from experts, but for Holy Week this year, we have tried our hand at creating a filmed service so that we can utilize musicians we know and famous artwork to tell the stories of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The recording took place at our family farm. We wish the artwork could be a bit more diverse, but everything we do online has to receive permission, so we were a bit limited. All the same, we pray it will be a meaningful worship. It will be posted at 6pm on Maundy Thursday and can be watched anytime after.

**Pastors' article- Continued from Page 1**

Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced.

On average, a Panda feeds for approximately 12 hours per day. This is the same as an adult at home under quarantine which is why we call it a "Pandemic"



Don't run away! We will not be drenching each other with water or dancing down the aisles any more than we already do (wink, wink), but we hope to continue the Easter message by sharing some good laughs together.

Let's be honest, last year, Easter did not feel like Easter. We weren't sure we would make it to the other side...the world was shut down...churches were shut down. A year later, we're *standing* on the other side. We must not deny or ignore the losses and lessons that have risen from this past year. Yet, this Easter IS different...we have a vaccine, the numbers are going down, hope is rising up! We will not remain in a tomb. We, like Jesus, rise to new life, new ways of being, new

ways of loving. For that, we can join our voices in laughter.

That said, we need your help to make Holy Humor a really special, uplifting day. **Please be brave and come with a worship-appropriate joke or story to share during worship on April 11.** We promise that we will all laugh, even if you mess up the punch line! This congregation is committed to being encouragers!

If you would prefer to have someone else read your joke or story, just ask.

Maybe you could even invite a friend to join the festivities. After a year like this, we ALL need an opportunity for joy and laughter.

Love,  
Your Pastors who Love to Laugh



**One Great Hour of Sharing**

May we prayerfully consider how much we are able to give to the PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. This offering is a profound way we can live out our faith as it supports three crucial programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People. Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. This past year has made it even worse for so many. Our gifts stretch around the world to help those far away and those right here in the states. Please watch a video that helps you see where your financial gifts go.

<https://vimeo.com/498120983>

...Pastor Marena



# History of the First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg

(This story can also be found on the church's website) Author Unknown



The First Presbyterian congregation was first organized on May 20, 1826, and in the spring of 1845 a new church building was begun at the site of the present one. It fronted on Washington Street and a bell hung from its white steeple. In 1869, a

parsonage was built and in 1872 extensive remodeling was done in the building.

Then in December 1876, during a social gathering in the church, the furnace became overheated and a serious fire caused such great damage that the members were faced with a difficult decision. They were forced to choose between erecting a new building or spending a great sum on the old one. It was decided that a new building was the best solution. The new building was dedicated on June 5, 1881. It had cost nearly \$19,000 to build. In 1896 the auditorium (sanctuary) was refitted and redecorated, and a pipe organ was installed.



In July 1907, disaster struck again. A tornado struck the church, and the east gable of the tower was blown down, crashing through the roof and on to the floor



of the audience room. It took nearly two years to complete the repairs. The tower was rebuilt, not as it was before with a pointed spire, but as it is today. During this period, services were held in the courthouse.

Although women were not admitted into the higher boards of the church during this time, no one could doubt their influence. Their organizations have been very busy in every emergency. Many conveniences of the church have been paid for by the handiwork of the women in various

organizations. They have contributed generously to missions, and at a time when women's work was most often unpaid, they contributed their time and efforts. An undertaking of which they were most proud was a mission school operated by many women of the church. It was begun in 1890 and was in existence for thirty years.

After the end of World War II, attendance grew in volume. The church was not large enough for extra classes. People began to feel the need for more room for the church school; a new kitchen, and a larger social room were needed. After a long discussion, a financial drive begun. The members accepted the need for sacrifice and gave generously to build an addition to the church which was dedicated on May 4, 1958.

At the end of 1964, a unicameral Session was created. The traditional separate boards of deacons and trustees became committees of the Session. The church building was air-conditioned in 1965 and an elevator was installed in 1966. A new church library was organized in 1979 with over 1,900 titles, although an earlier church library was catalogued in 1878 listing 400 books.

In 1987, another addition including a nursery, classrooms, and a meeting room was dedicated. The added 4000 square feet completed the second level above the 1958 addition over the downstairs kitchen, classrooms and Fellowship Hall.

With a history of 195 years and worshipping in the same building for the past 140 years, the members of this congregation face the future with Christian faith and stewardship dedicated to God and with a resolve to uphold the faith of those who worshipped here before us, those who now worship with us, and those who will worship here after us.

## Happy Easter



## A HUGE " *f* " Note of Thanks to Cathy!

Cathy has been instrumental (sorry for all the puns) in bringing our music to life this Lent season. A couple months ago, knowing her music background, we called to ask her idea on recording our music through Lent and she graciously gave her time to make it possible. God works in such mysterious ways. It still astounds us that my cousins work with 'The Lincourts' daughters in Greenwood and with another music teacher that lives here in Greensburg! Everyone was willing to share their gifts with us...amazing! Cathy made all the contacts and musical arranging, along with singing! She also boldly agreed to direct handbells. It has been so much fun! We are eager to play for Easter (a piece she arranged!). Thank you, Cathy, for sharing your "*f*" forte with us! (Sorry...had to do one more.).



### **Members of Session**

Darleen Fox  
 Polly Matlock  
 David Narwold  
 Terri Pleak  
 Judy Rust  
 Mary Stradley  
 Pastors– Revs. Garrett & Marena  
 Vittorio-Schindler  
 Clerk– Darleen Fox

### **Revs. Garrett and Marena Vittorio-Schindler**

pastorsfpcgburg@gmail.com  
 Pastor Garrett: 1-765-350-6264  
 Pastor Marena: 1-765-350-0074

**THE SESSION** of the First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg, IN USA held its monthly meeting on March 17, 2021 in the Memorial Room of the church.

- ◇ A reminder, Pastor Garrett and Pastor Marena will be on vacation the weeks of April 18 and April 25.
- ◇ **Girl Scouts** would like to participate in any future projects they can that the church will have.
- ◇ **Trustees:** We are currently working on the electrical needs in the pastor's offices, looking to replace windows throughout the church in the future, and looking to improve lighting in the church.
- ◇ **Personnel:** We are in the process of taking applications for the position of administrative assistant for the church.

### **Session Committees**

#### **Trustees, Finance, & Stewardship**

Chair: Mary Stradley  
 Members: Jerry Fox, Roy Simpson, Terri Pleak, David Schlemmer, and Dennis and Susan Wilson

#### **Care of Parish**

Chair: Polly Matlock  
 Members: Doreen Wilkison, Dennis Shepherd, and Mary Narwold

#### **Worship & Music**

Chair: Jeff Lincourt  
 Members: Cathy Lincourt, Mike Gommel, and Greg and Judy Rust

#### **Mission, Outreach, & Marketing**

Chair: Judy Rust  
 Members: Dennis Shepherd, Carrie Shumaker, Greg Rust, Jeff Lincourt, and Mike Gommel

#### **Personnel**

Chair: Terri Pleak  
 Members: Greg Rust, Cathy Lincourt, and David Schlemmer

#### **Christian Education**

Chair: Marena Vittorio-Schindler  
 Members: Carrie Shumaker, Laura Abrel, Linda Simpson, Doreen Wilkison, Darleen Fox, Cathy and Jeff Lincourt, Dena Vittorio, and Pastor Garrett

Anyone wishing to join or be taken off a committee please contact the committee chair.



# Easter Chick Deviled Eggs

From <https://www.allrecipes.com>

**Ingredients:** 12 hard boiled eggs (peeled), 2-3 T. Mayonnaise, 1½ T. Mustard, 1 Dill Pickle (finely chopped), 1 t. pickle juice, salt and pepper to taste, bacon strip or black olive for the eyes.

- Slice through the top 1/3 of each egg ensuring some of the yolk is included in the slice. Carefully remove yolk.
- Mix yolks, mayonnaise, mustard, pickle and juice, salt and pepper together in a bowl. Fill a piping bag or a quart size zip-lock bag with the egg mixture and snip off a corner. Pipe egg yolk mixture into the hollowed egg whites creating the chick, ensuring there is enough filling to add the eyes and a beak. Place top white on at an angle.
- Slice carrot rounds and cut wedges out of the rounds for the beaks, then add 1 or 2 beaks to each chick.
- Slice olive or cooked bacon pieces into small squares to be used as eyes and add two eyes to each chick to look like a chick peeking out of the egg.

**Cooks Note:** Feel free to use the ingredients in different amounts or add your favorite ingredients.

**Tips:** It is easier to get the yolk out without tearing the egg white by breaking up the yolk.

You can put the chicks in a tray, or stand them up by slicing a little off the bottom to allow a flat surface. (Cut wedges out of the carrot rounds for feet).



## Prayer Focus for April, 2021

taken in part from Rev. Richard Wilhite

### Suffering and Grace

Just as Jesus was sent by God to save the world, he sends his disciples for the same glorious purpose. These days have not been easy for anyone, but Jesus and his disciples suffered much more than we have. The disciples are sent "not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved." (John 17, 2-3)

These are marching orders for trauma survivors. None other than they are suited to recognize the suffering of the world. Many of us feel that we have survived traveling on traumatic paths. In the steadfast love of God, the undeniable traumas of life are an end and a mysterious beginning for all of us.

Prayer: To you, God of all moments, we lift up our hearts. May we hear your voice of blessing and empowerment in moments when our vision penetrates no farther than our suffering. . . Remind us again and again that, in You, life and love are eternal and that all the world's unfolding moments are held in Your hands. Amen

*Polly Matlock, Care of Parish Team*



## First Presbyterian Church

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Church services can be found on Sunday afternoons on our **facebook page** and on our **website**.

FACEBOOK—

@FirstPresbyterianGburg

Or [www.fpcgburg.org](http://www.fpcgburg.org)

## Our Purpose

We are a welcoming family of faith,  
Celebrating Christ's presence  
Worshiping God with joy,  
Nurturing the life of each individual,  
Carrying Christ's message to all the world

To encourage expansive beliefs  
so all experience vibrant welcome!



**2021 Per Capita**  
**\$41.42 per person**



Antique postcards on page three are compliments of Carrie Shumaker, Greensburg Historical Society

## Please Keep These People In Your Continued Prayers:

**Sending  
Healing  
Prayers**



## Prayer Requests

Greg Rust  
Elias Pagel  
Judy Lozier  
Mike Gommel  
Clay Smith  
Diane Hart-Dawson  
Larry Starr  
Rev. Darrell P'Pool  
Dan Scheidler  
Robin Johnson  
Delbert Martin  
Doug Chamberlain

Prayers for  
Peace and Serenity  
throughout the world!