

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

FPC Bi-Weekly Newsletter

April 16 - April 29, 2019

From the Pastor/Head of Staff:

Dear friends,

How quickly life changes. In Durham last week, our friend and neighbor Kong Lee lost his life in the blink of an eye - as he stayed to close up his beloved coffee shop, as he told the firefighter that he couldn't leave, not quite yet. I can't blame him. I am pretty sure I would have done the same. Like Kong, I have always been the responsible one - the eldest child - the one who closes up shop the right way. I understand why he wanted to put up a sign so that people wouldn't be confused when they stopped by. Of course he wanted to take care of the business at hand. Of course he believed that all would be well in the end and that there was no reason to panic. And yet, in the blink of an eye, he was gone and all had changed for him and for our community. In the blink of an eye. . . .

How quickly life changes.

We don't need to have lived very long to know this is true. In the blink of an eye our world can be turned upside down and we don't know where to turn or what to do or even who we are anymore. We can't see or think straight. Our hearts are in the vice-grip of grief. Our bodies are limp with exhaustion caused by the weight of our every emotion. Our eyes have emptied every tear.

This is what Holy Week feels like, I think. This is what Jesus and his followers would all feel like by the end of the week, when everything they had been sure of crumbled before them and all hope was lost. By the end of the week, the One who would have been their Savior hangs limp and lifeless on the cross, a crown of thorns mocking his distorted and unfulfilled kingship. This is Holy Week. No wonder so many avoid it at all costs.

But Jesus' story does not end there. It does not end in darkness and defeat. The prophet Isaiah says:

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has
risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

At the end of Holy Week, after the darkness has hovered over the land for

three days, everything changes in the blink of an eye:

The light defeats the darkness.
The stone has been rolled away.
The graveclothes lie empty.
Death has not the final say.
The Lord is risen!
He is risen indeed!
And nothing
will ever
be the same again.
How quickly despair changes into hope.
How quickly darkness is overcome by the light.
How quickly death changes . . . into life.

Everything changes in the blink of an eye. Thanks be to God.

May God be with us as we journey through the grief of Holy Week to the glorious promises of Easter morn.

With love,
Mindy

Joys/Concerns

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of former FPC member, **Ralph Coonrad**, 95, who died April 12. Ralph was one of the charter members of Westminster

Presbyterian Church, after leaving FPC to pioneer the new start up congregation in Durham in 1963 (see page 253 of **Peter Fish's Downtown by History and by Choice**). **A Service of Witness to the Resurrection will be held at Westminster Presbyterian on Friday, April 26 at 1:00 p.m., with a reception following at Hope Valley Country Club.**

Added this week:

Marsha Butler, recovering at home following surgery

Harold Dunlap at The Forest at Duke

Jack Kost, recovering from a fall

Patrick Kimiti, friend of Mercy Ndambiri-Curlett in Kenya

Don Smith, recovering from last week's explosion near Bright Leaf

Recovering at Home:

Margaret Mubanga

Mercy Ndambiri-Curlett

Joseph Ngumi

Franzi Rokoske (and her mother)

Carolyn and Jim Wolfe

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell, Becky Crockett**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bette Conroy, Bob Rankin**

Durham Regent: **John Kerr, Ann Prospero**

Pruitt Health at Carolina Point, Durham: **Helen Garrison**

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Fran Alwood, mother of Jennie Alwood

Bill Bigger, pastor of Hope Valley Baptist Church, Durham

Ken Chambliss, father of Will Chambliss

Camilla Crampton, friend of Mal King

Wayne Thompson, colleague of Li-Chen Chin

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

From the Associate Pastor

Dear friends,

As traumatic as last Wednesday was, with the gas explosion that took place in downtown Durham, exacting the loss of life to **Kwon Lee** as well as severe injuries to others, there also was a silver lining to that event. Durham, and especially downtown Durham, is an extremely tight community. And I was amazed at how quickly the word got around that the core of our beloved community was in danger, and that first responders were streaming into the heart of the danger zone, while the rest of us were encouraged to keep our distance and pray hard. And so those of us at First Presbyterian Church, where the concussion from the blast was felt, watched the dark grey smoke spiral upwards as the sirens wailed, and we prayed for our fellow Durhamites closer to the danger zone.

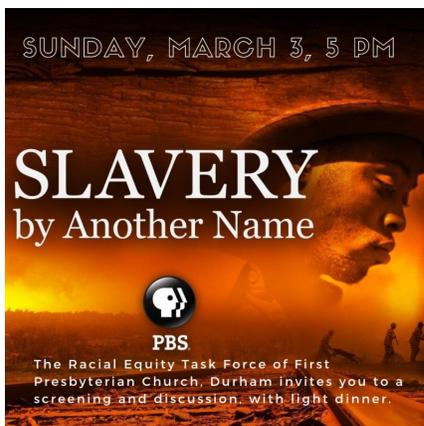
But what was also amazing to me, one who was in no direct danger from the blast or fire, was the many people from outside of Durham or emailed, texted or called to check and make sure that I was okay, and that the church was okay. I never perceived the issue to be about me! But to those beyond our city boundaries, they cared enough to make sure that the church staff was not directly impacted. **Sarah Finbow**, our former youth director, texted us from New Jersey, to check on **Sam Miglarese**, whose office was shaken and damaged. And many others let us know that we were held in their prayers as well. My heart was strangely warmed, even in the midst of the disaster, both by the immediate and costly response of the first responders, and by the continuing expressions of love from those far away from the shock.

I am so thankful to God for the caring nature of Durham as a beloved community, of First Presbyterian Church, as part of that beloved community, and of the huge network of supportive faith friends that extend far beyond our knowing. Truly God has got the whole world in his/her hands! I commend to you my favorite poem of Howard Thurman's, *The Threads in My Hand*. It begins and ends like this:

*Only one end of the threads, I hold in my hand.
The other threads go many ways, linking my life with other lives...*

*One thread is a strange thread – it is my steadying thread;
When I am lost, I pull it hard and find my way.
When I am saddened, I tighten my grip
and gladness glides along its quivering path;
When the waste places of my spirit appear in arid confusion,
The thread becomes a channel of newness of life.
On thread is a strange thread – it is my steadying thread.
God's hand holds the other end...*

- **Congratulations to *Banks and Katie Harvard*** upon the birth of their second daughter, *Emma Bankston Harvard*, born last week in Charleston, SC. Banks is the son of *Joe and Carlisle Harvard* and the sister of *Rebecca Harvard Barnes*.
- **Kudos to *Joe Harvard***, also, for receiving a Keeper of the Promise Award at the MLK Good Neighbor Breakfast on April 13 at FPC.
- **Congratulations to *Nathan Bullock and Theo Lucas***, who participated in the confirmation class at FPC, and then were confirmed by the Session at Covenant Presbyterian Church Thursday, April 4, and presented in worship there on April 7. It was wonderful to have our two congregations working together toward the spiritual nurture of our youth.
- **Many thanks to *Brent Curtis and the Christian Education Committee*** for baking and icing the plethora of hot cross buns, and stuffing and hiding Easter eggs for the Palm Sunday activities for families on April 14. In addition, *Sharon Hirsch* brought the blue and silver pinwheels for the children to “plant” in the church courtyard to raise awareness of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. *Cherrie and Andy Henry* hosted the **Scratch/Young Adults group** in their home on April 13 where the palm crosses were folded by hand. Many thanks to all who participated in these activities.
- **The next Parents’ Night Out** will take place **Sunday, May 19**, from 4:45 – 6:15 p.m. Children will get to meet “the robot” and the brains behind it, *Sigfried Fullenkamp*. And we will eat a light dinner and play outside if the weather is good. Parents will slip away down the street for some burgers, refreshments and fellowship together. Let *Marilyn Hedgpeth* know if you are able to join us.
- **Kudos to the Worship and the Arts Committee** for organizing seven wonderful weeks of consecutive Holy Communion during Lent (plus Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday)! It certainly made the high holy days leading up to Easter more meaningful for our congregation. A great deal of work goes into communion preparation, serving, shepherding and clean up, and FPC is certainly grateful for those who take on the duties of worship leadership. *Alice Raney* is chair of the Worship and the Arts Committee.



Screening and Discussion

Saturday, April 20

3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Home of *Libby and Dub Gulley*

1313 Woodburn Rd, Durham 27705

Please contact Libby at 919-490-6600 or lpgulley@gmail.com if you plan to come.

The discussion will be led by *Emily Wilkins*.

Event is sponsored by FPC's Racial Equity Task Force.



the Durham CROP Walk this year. We ended up with beautiful weather for the walk (despite the occasional pollen clouds)...the First Pres team had 23 walkers and we have raised \$2,650 to date (over 60 members of FPC participated by walking and/or making a donation)! The Durham CROP Walk as a

whole has raised over \$85,000 to help fight hunger here in Durham and around the world. If you sponsored a walker but have not turned in a donation, please turn in a check made out to "Durham CROP Walk" or make your donation online at [here](#). - *Jody Maxwell, FPC's CROP Walk coordinator*

GOOD NEWS! First Presbyterian Church, as a group of dedicated volunteers with Urban Ministries, has been nominated to receive the **Key Volunteer of the Year Award at a luncheon hosted by the Triangle Nonprofit and Volunteer Leadership Center.** If any of you would like to attend this luncheon as representatives of First Presbyterian, please let Margaret Rubiera know ASAP. The details for the event are:

- **Monday, April 29, 11 am - 1 pm**
- **Hilton Durham Hotel, 3800 Hillsborough Rd**
- **Cost — \$30 per person**

Your rsvp is needed by April 19. We will find out during the lunch if the panel of judges chose us for the award.

SCHEDULE FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

Ordination and/or installation date will be Sunday, June 2, 2019.

Officer training – Please reserve these remaining dates for training:

Sunday, April 28, 12:30-2:30 p.m. in the East and Wilson Parlors.

Lunch provided. Newly elected officers from Trinity Ave PC will train with us.

Sunday, May 5, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Lunch provided.

We will meet at Trinity Ave PC and train with their newly elected officers.

Examination by the Session: May 20, 2019

6:30 p.m. Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

7:00-7:30 p.m. Meet with the Session in the East Parlor.

First meeting: Monday, June 24.

Deacons will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the East Parlor. Combined officer dinner is at

6:30 p.m. (\$8 donation will cover costs of the food, prepared by **Cris Rivera** and **Beth Stringfield**). The Session meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. in the East Parlor.

**The Church office will be closed on Monday, April 22
in observance of the Easter holiday.**

**Maundy Thursday - April 18
7:00 p.m. at FPC**

All are welcome to join us for a joint worship service with Covenant Presbyterian Church (**at FPC**) that commemorates Jesus' last meal with his disciples and concludes with the stripping of



the chancel. Childcare will be provided. Supper (no charge) will be available at 6:00 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall.

*** Communion servers are needed from FPC to serve alongside elders from Covenant PC. Please contact *Alice Raney* if you can serve Thursday evening: araney1@nc.rr.com or alice.raney@duke.edu.

Good Friday – April 19 Begins at 12 Noon - Stations of the Cross

This spiritual pilgrimage takes us through the Holy Week texts in Durham's downtown context, from inside the sanctuary of St. Philip's Episcopal Church (403 E. Main St.) to the inside of FPC's sanctuary. All ages welcome.



Easter Sunday - April 21

No Sunday School

8:30 a.m. Worship in FPC's Memorial Garden

9:00 a.m. Worship and Communion

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Brunch (in Watts-Hill Hall)

11:00 a.m. Worship and Communion

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

will be received at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

worship. Specially marked envelopes will be provided for this offering. Please give generously. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering provides relief to the hungry, poor and oppressed, and those affected by natural disasters. If you will not be here on Easter Sunday and would like to give to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, you can give online by clicking [here](#).

Remember to bring your blessing bags or supplies on Easter (communion) Sunday.

11 a.m. Narthex Greeter: ***Alice Raney***

11:00 a.m. After Worship Greeters: **TBD** (narthex/rear); **TBD** (side/font)

Ushers (9:00 a.m.): ***Kathy Krahenbuhl*** (head), ***Stephen Berry, Dale Gaddis*** (need 3 more)

Ushers (11:00 a.m.): ***John Mozart*** (head), ***Kathy Conner, Emily Wilkins, El Hess*** (need 2 more)

Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.

Communion Elders:

9:00 a.m. (need eight total)

Delia Kwon

Eric Wiebe

Lenore Champion

Jane Williams
Peter Fish
Alice Raney
Chris Brown

11:00 a.m. (need 14 total)

Marie Sappenfield
David Sappenfield
Cris Rivera
Kristen Meade
Phyllis Verhey
Jane Brawley
Jane Wettach
Tom Bacon
Miriam Morey
Alice Raney
Luke Everett
Gray Wilson

Sunday, April 28 **Second Sunday of Easter**

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship (led by the Scratch/Young Adults group)

Cherrie Henry, preaching

Liturgists: **Members of Scratch/Young Adults Group**

Narthex Greeter: *Chris Williams*

After Worship Greeters: *Leah Graves* (narthex/rear);

Delia Kwon (side/font)

Ushers: **Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL and other study opportunities

Children's Sunday School (grades 3-6)

No Sunday School for children on Easter Sunday, but please join us for one of the three Easter worship services: 8:30 in the Memorial Garden; and 9:00 and 11:00 in the sanctuary. Childcare will be available for younger children during the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services.

After Easter, we will continue our new rotation model of Sunday School, which will allow our 3rd – 6th graders opportunities to experience the foundational stories of the Old Testament in many different ways through drama, art, games, LEGOS, music, cooking, gardening, etc. Should be great fun for the students and for the teaching teams! The class meets in room 201 of the CE Building at 9:45. (Bring friends and join us!)

What's next for the **confirmands**? After Easter, high schoolers will join the on-going Sunday School class taught by *John Weicher* and *Emily Hansel*, and middle schoolers will meet in the youth room with *Lucie and Wayne House* (and *Eloise*), *Lenore Champion and Kim Abels*. Let's keep a good thing going!

No Adult Sunday School on Easter Day, Sunday, April 21. We will have a light brunch between the 9:00 and 11:00 services on Easter Sunday, April 21. So plan to come and enjoy conversing with your friends on Easter Sunday.

Adult "Faith & Community" -

On Sunday, April 28, we welcome back **Sharon Hirsch**, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse NC. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Sharon will update us concerning the state of our local children, and share insight about a special program which she has asked FPC to pilot in the fall. Join us in Watts-Hill Hall at 9:45.

Adult Lectionary Class -

April 28: Alleluia! The resurrection has happened, and everything is different now. But some have not understood or accepted the message. How can it be presented in a way that will convince the doubters? Join us for discussion in the East Parlor at 9:45.

Adult Journeys & Scratch -

The class will discuss the Christian elements of two Flannery O'Connor stories on **April 28:** "Good Country People" and "Artificial N...." The stories are generally available through an internet search. All are welcome to join this class which meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in **room 205** of the education building.

Journeys and Scratch will lead the Faith and Community Sunday School class on May 5th on the Christian themes of Flannery O'Connor short stories. We will discuss our approach/presentation at our April 28 class. Please note that you will not be absolved of helping out with the May 5th Faith and Community class by strategically missing the April 28 Journeys/Scratch class.

Women's Spiritual Formation - Susan Dunlap leads this class for women in the **basement parlor** at 9:45. This class is a great support system of sharing and prayer for women.

The Thoughtful Christian - This class uses *The Thoughtful Christian* study guides. It meets in the **apartment classroom**, upstairs in the church house at 9:45. It is designed for parents of children and youth. **Mindy Douglas** leads this class. New faces are welcome.

Friday Book Study – This Friday, April 19, we will meet from 10:30 – 11:30 to complete the last chapter of Howard Thurman's classic work, *Jesus and the Disinherited on love*. This will enable us to join the Stations of the Cross walk at noon. All are welcome to join us.

MACCABEES:
The Story behind the
Story of Hanukkah



HIGH SCHOOL
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays in April & May, 9:45-10:45 am
Snacks Provided, Former Confirmands Welcome

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DURHAM

Calling all 6th, 7th & 8th Graders...

Middle School Sunday School is starting!
Teachers: Lucie & Wayne House, Lenore Champion & Kim Abels
Sundays this spring - April 7-June 2
In the Youth Room, 9:45-10:45 am



Updated Spring 2019 Youth Group Calendar

*First Presbyterian Church,
Durham*

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 4:30-6:30P, usually
Crop Walk (All-Church) April 7, 1:30-4:15 pm
Cookie Baking for Collegians April 14
Happy Easter! (No Youth Group) April 21
Prayer Walk April 28
Farm Church May 5
Mystery Adventure & Welcome May 12
5th Graders

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 6-8 pm, usually
Crop Walk (All-Church) April 7, 1:30-4:15 pm
Cookie Baking for Collegians April 14
Happy Easter! (No Youth Group) April 21
Prayer Walk April 28
Senior Banquet May 5
Kickball vs. Young Adults May 12 @ Momsen-
& Welcome 8th Graders Hudsons
24-Hour Sabbath Beach Retreat May 18, Noon to
May 19, Noon

MIDWEEK MORNING MEAL (HS) 8-8:45 am
Starbucks, 3801 Guess Rd. April 9
Holy Week (No MMM) April 16
Joe Van Gogh, 4711 Hope Villy Rd. April 23
Kaffeinate, 115 Duke St. April 30
Satrbucks May 7
Joe Van Gogh May 14
Kaffeinate May 21
Starbucks May 28

*Friends Welcome
Jesus Loves You
Dinner Provided*



*Come hang
out with
us.*

24 Hours of Relaxing, Peace & the Water



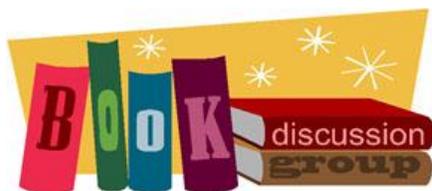
12 noon, Saturday, May 18 to 12 noon, Sunday, May 19
@ a NC Beach (Holden or Sunset)
Rest & renewal after APs, before finals
\$50 (scholarship available), due May 5

FIRST FRIENDS AND FAMILIES

- April 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of *Jane Wettach and Paul Baldasare* - check out the EVITE for details
- May 18 at *Jancy Johnstone's* home on the lake - details forthcoming

SCRATCH / YOUNG ADULTS

April 26-27 – (Easy) Campout at Camp New Hope. Click [here](#) for the camping details. Remember to respond to the EVITE.



Chapel Hill

BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, May 14

7:00 p.m. at the home of *Marila Stone*

111 Westside Drive (Southern Village),

Mary Kay Robinson will lead a discussion on *How to Change Your Mind:*

What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression and Transcendence by Michael Pollan. Please RSVP to Marila so she will know how many to plan for.



New Monthly Social Event: Winesdays at the Co-op!

Recently, a few of us FPC fellowshippers have been gathering at the Durham Co-op Market on occasion for their regular wine tasting events at the kind invitation of **Cris Rivera**. Our little trial group has found this to be a really nice, laid back way to get to know each other better while supporting a great community-focused

local market. We've been having so much fun hanging out together that we want to make it a monthly "thing," open to any and all!

Join us in sharing wine and breaking bread in a more casual setting! This month we'll meet at the [Co-op](#) on Wednesday, April 24 - 5:30-7:30 p.m.

- Cost is \$3 for wine tasting and then we each usually pitch in on an assortment of bread, cheese and other light dinner snacks to share.
 - We usually eat outside which is lovely so you may want a jacket, weather depending.
 - Email or text **Laurie Williamson** to let us know you are coming or just show up and bring a friend! laurie@laurieandmatt.com, 919-724-1682
 - [Co-op website and info here](#)
 - [Get directions here](#)
-



**Coming This Summer: GBCFF
(Great Big Church Family Festival)
Sunday evenings from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.,
June 9th, July 7th and August 4th**

FPC will host the June event; Trinity Avenue Presbyterian, July; and Mt. Bethel Presbyterian, August.

GBCFF this year will be geared towards service projects that we can do together as a family, young and old. So, if your youth needs summer service hours, they can acquire those by helping prepare for the evening and participating in the event (perhaps 3 hours of service per event). We will eat dinner together, as is our custom, and we'll share a Bible story and sing some songs. But most of the time we will be working on an array of service projects, like: preparing hurricane kits; making and packing lunches for Urban Ministries and Open Table; making blessing bags; gathering supplies for our Armed Forces; packing backpacks with school supplies; etc. The \$10/\$30 cost covers dinner, plus supplies for the projects. **On FPC's night to host, we will have 25 guests joining us from the Raleigh Muslim community on the service project. This is a great time to practice neighbor love as we serve together.** I know well that you will greet them warmly and weave them into the activities of the evening with great hospitality. So, please mark these dates on your calendars, and plan to join

us for dinner and service at this summer's GBCFF. Stay tuned for registration information, which will be on-line. - *Marilyn Hedgpeth*

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

Families Moving Forward, our neighbor and partner in helping families move through homelessness to self-sufficiency, has asked First Presbyterian to sponsor our fourth Circle of Support. A Circle is about 4-8 people who agree to spend a year working with a family that is leaving FMF for permanent housing. Circle partners meet regularly with the family, helping them connect to resources and offering support as they seek to become stable and retain housing. The time commitment varies over the year, depending on the family and the number of partners. If you are interested in participating or just learning more, please contact *Lea Bingham*, leabingham@gmail.com or 919-358-1774.

Faith Connections on Mental Illness would like to have a representative from FPC at their monthly meetings, the second Monday of each month at St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church in Chapel Hill from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on **Monday, May 13**. Please contact the church office if you might be interested.

HELP FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:

Growing thru Grief offers year-round support for those who have lost a loved one. Here is the schedule of speakers for the next few weeks:

April 23 William Hollowman and Bill Dahl, "The Road Ahead"

April 30 Heidi Gessner, "Writing for Resilience"

May 7 Mitzi Quinn will open the small group conversations

May 14 Betsy Barton, "The Five Invitations: Thoughts on Living Fully"

May 21 Amy Onstead will open the small group conversations

Growing thru Grief is a free, open, confidential program sponsored by a coalition of area religious and civic organizations to provide support and comfort to those who mourn. Meetings are held year-round on Tuesdays (except for holidays) at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1200 W. Cornwallis. We gather at 4 pm for registration, coffee, and cookies; the meeting starts at 4:30 and ends by 6.

FUNDRAISER FOR IGLESIA EMANUEL

Saturday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Trinity Avenue Presbyterian, Durham

Wonderful things are happening at our sister church, **Iglesia Emanuel!** Come join us for a very special dinner celebration and learn about ways you can be involved and help support their unique and impactful ministry in our community. See [flyer](#). Questions or RSVP to *Margaret Rubiera* - margaretmr29@gmail.com

**Please join us for SONAM's Late Spring Concert
benefiting LEAP! You don't want to miss our
last concert of the 2018-2019 season!**



Date: Sunday, May 5

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: First Presbyterian Church

All proceeds benefit [*LEAP*](#), which seeks to advance dual-language literacy for Latino children in the Triangle community. The concert will feature music of great Spanish-speaking poets and composers from the Renaissance to modern times. You'll hear works by Victoria, Lauridsen, Whitacre, de Silva, and more! To see the full program, [*visit our upcoming concert page*](#). We hope you'll join us! Please invite your friends, family, and colleagues. You're also welcome to [*share our Facebook event*](#) on your social media!

The next church newsletter will be issued on Tuesday, April 30.

Please submit your articles to Valerie in the church office

by Sunday, April 28.

[April 2019 Birthdays](#)

[Online Church Calendar](#)



[Visit our website](#)