

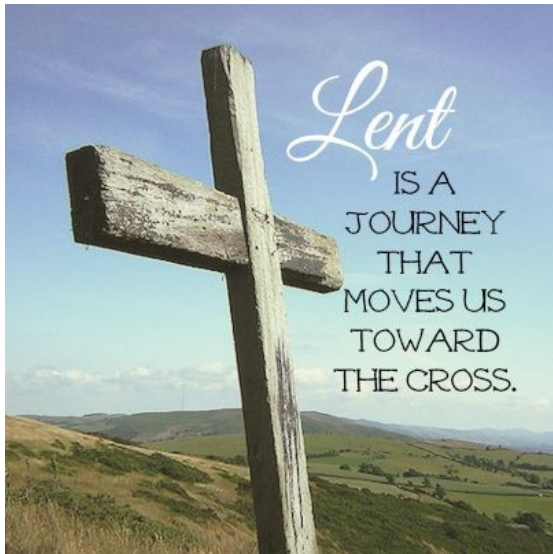


THE NEW LEAF

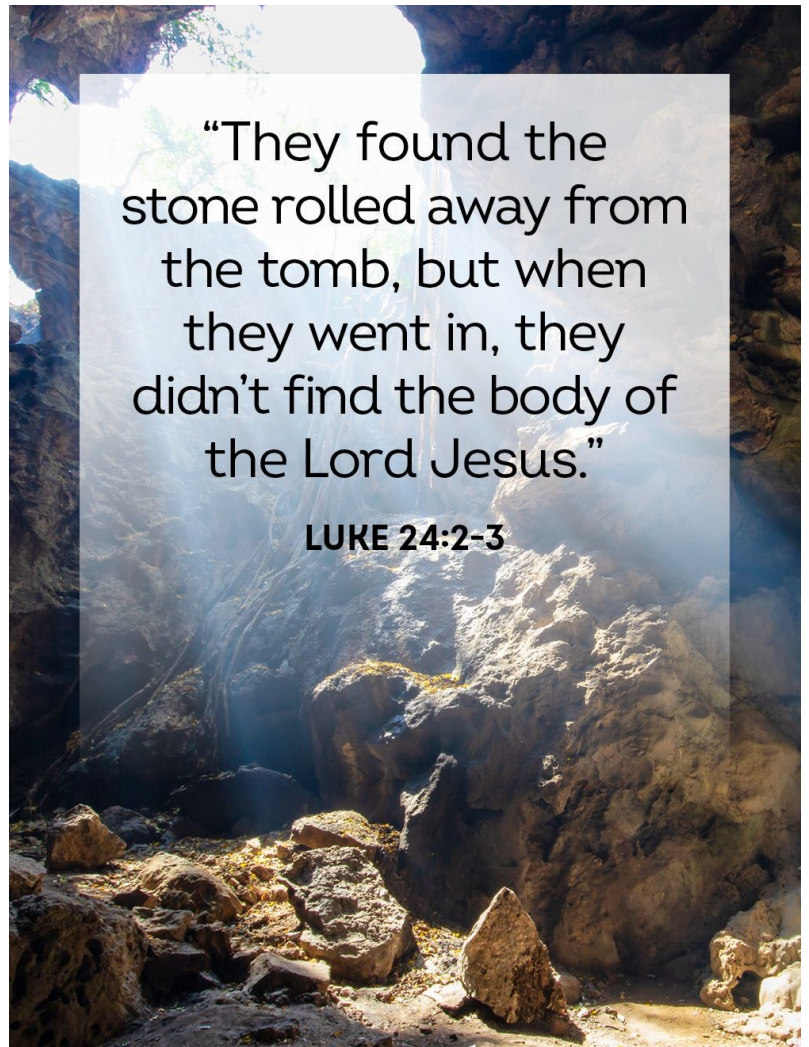
First Presbyterian Church of Bridgeton



MARCH

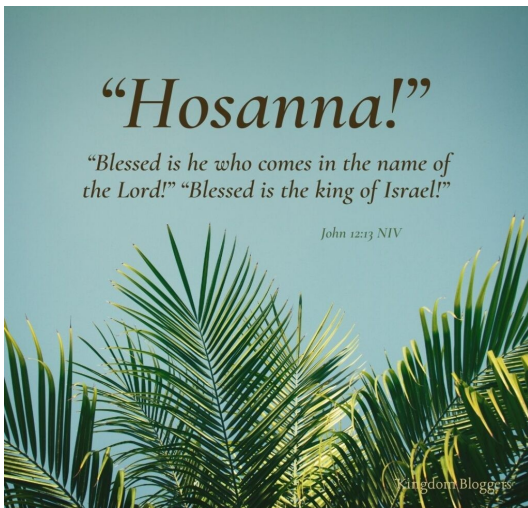


Lent
IS A
JOURNEY
THAT
MOVES US
TOWARD
THE CROSS.



“They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus.”

LUKE 24:2-3



“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”

John 12:13 NIV

Kingdom Blogger

Rev. Norlita Kaul

(248) 342-6190

bridgetonfpcpastor@gmail.com

In office at FPC 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Monday thru Thursday

Church Office

119 W. Commerce St.

Bridgeton NJ 08302

(856)455-0809

Hours: Mon - Thurs 9 am - 2 pm

Christie Sever

Admin. Assistant

firstpresbridgeton@gmail.com

For regular updates and photos,

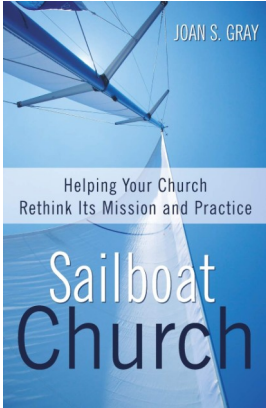
like us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FPCbridgeton>

Or go to our website www.fpcbridgeton.org



Board Updates

SESSION NOTES



Session members are reading the book **Sailboat Church** Joan S. Gray. The purpose of the book is to help churches that are continually “rowing” to investigate ways to “sail” the “ship”.



DEACONS NOTES

- A **Puzzle Library** will be set up in the future for/by members and friends to share puzzle fun. A puzzle is set up in Bonham Hall for everyone to complete. Check it out – maybe you can find a few pieces. If anyone has a book shelf that they would like to donate, no wider than 33”, please contact Marge P.



- Remember to fill out the **Emergency Contact Form** and give to Marge P. or the church office. The form will be used in case of an emergency during a church activity. If you need a form see Marge.

TRUSTEE NOTES

Thanks to a successful Capital Fund Campaign we were able to replace the flat roof over the office, kitchen, bathrooms and hallway. It has rained and thankfully, NO LEAKS!!!



A time to worship . . .

Evening Prayer Service



Wednesdays during Lent
6:45 — 7:15 PM

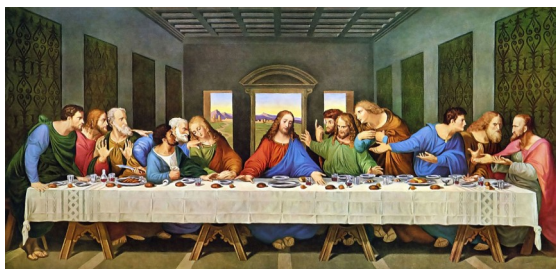


Sunday, March 24

Worship will include a processional with the waving of palms.

Maundy Thursday Dinner and Service

First Presbyterian Church Bridgeton and Greenwich Presbyterian Church will join together on Thursday, March 28 as we walk through the Last Supper and the Crucifixion.

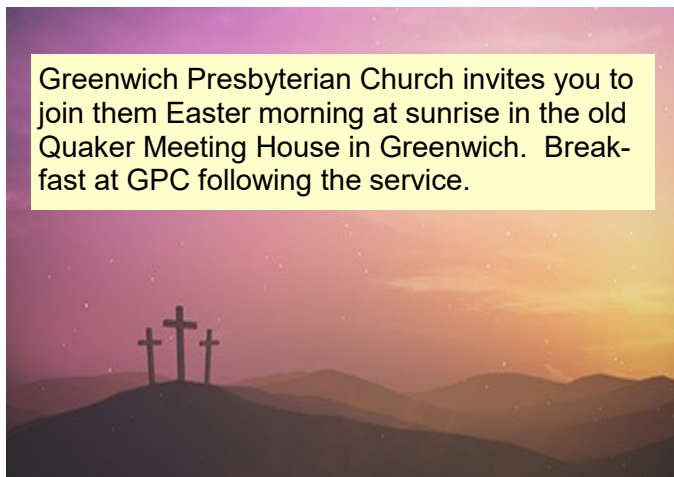


As Jesus and the disciples did long ago, we will have supper together in Bonham Hall at 6:00 PM. Dinner will be covered dish, so please bring something to share.

The service will be in the Sanctuary at 7:00 PM. Members of both congregations will be involved in the service. Communion will be served. We will leave the service in complete silence as though we are in the tomb.



Greenwich Presbyterian Church invites you to join them Easter morning at sunrise in the old Quaker Meeting House in Greenwich. Breakfast at GPC following the service.



Easter Sunday
10 AM Worship Service

He is
RISEN

A time to fellowship . . .

Time Out Tuesday

Date: March 19, 2024

Time: 12 Noon

Place: La Vita in Vineland



Please **RSVP** to the Church office (856)455-0809 **by 3/14/24**



Crafters' Comradery



Thursdays 1:30 - 3:30 in Bonham Hall
Bring your own craft materials, plan to accomplish some crafting, and enjoy fun

Fellowship Time Hosts Needed

Fellowship time following Sunday worship is important in the life of our church family. **Please help** the deacons **by volunteering to host fellowship time** once in a while. There is a calendar on the kitchen counter for sign-ups. Just write your name on the Sunday of your choice.



Flowers for Sunday Mornings

Anyone desiring to place **flowers in church on Sunday mornings** may **sign up** on the Flower Chart posted near the Giles St. entrance. **There are** a number of **Sundays available**. Monthly coordinators are also needed for several months near the end of the year. If interested, please contact Heather, Debbi B.G. or Yvonne.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Thanks for supporting our
PCUSA mission
offering for Lent

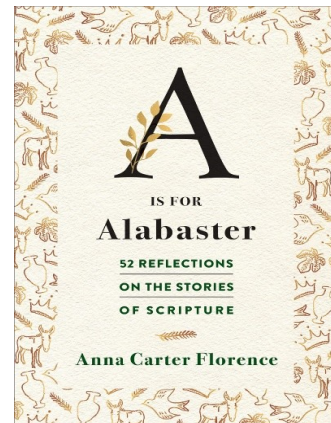
A time to learn . . .

Book group – A is for Alabaster

Wednesdays at 1:00 PM

It's not too late to join in. We have thoughtful discussions on one 3-4 page story each week.

In 52 stories Anna Carter Florence, a pastor and writer, brings interesting insight to many characters and stories in the Old and New Testaments. Her somewhat humorous stories and reflections run through the alphabet twice, from Abigail to Zelophehad's daughters, and from an alabaster jar of ointment to Zacchaeus.



Our first story was about Abigail from the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel. Abigail was smart and resourceful enough to recognize a bad situation caused by her foolish husband Nabal. Nabal had angered David, who was then planning to have his army attack Nabal's property. Abigail intervened by taking food to David's army. Nabal dies from shock at hearing what Abigail did. David then marries Abigail and later becomes King David. A lot of food for thought!

We have copies of the book. Please let Debbi BG, Debbie H, or Pastor Norlita know you would be interested in joining us on our journey through the book. The group meets in Bonham Hall, but you may choose to join us via Zoom.



A time to laugh . . .

This is how bagpipes work

1. The piper blows into the thistle cloth bag and gives it a good slap.
2. The creatures inside wake up and begin to wail.
3. The piper blows hard into the bag and gives it a squeeze.
4. Inside the bag the creatures fight and flap, they screech and skirl, they wail and drone.
5. The piper moves his fingers up and down the chanter just to keep them warm.
6. The piper must keep blowing and squeezing and walking and looking important.

What did the leprechaun tell his neighbor on March 17?

Irish you a Happy St. Patrick's Day

I'm tellin' you boys.. Jesus is a mighty fine fella. He knows how to treat a **DONKEY.**

STILL TWO DAYS AFTER PALM SUNDAY DARRYL THE PALM SUNDAY DONKEY WAS BUSY BRAGGING TO THE BOYS.

The Bad For Hanson

Waddya mean? That wasn't you who just said "Good morning"?

ACTUALLY, YOU HAD A PRETTY GREAT LIFE, BUT YOU WERE LOOKING DOWN AT YOUR PHONE AND YOU MISSED IT!

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320 WHILFORD

A time to give



Bakeless Bake Sale

If you haven't already made a donation, there's still time. You don't have to bake anything. The Deacons will donate **the proceeds to local food banks.**



Help Fill the Baskets

There are baskets in the rear of the Sanctuary for **Toiletries** for Bethany Grace's Shower Program and for metal **Pull Tabs** for Ronald MacDonald House



St. Patrick's Day



The Mission, Outreach and Publicity Committee and the Board of Deacons invite you to an **Irish luncheon** after worship on **March 17th, St. Patrick's Day**. **A free will offering** for the meal will be donated to Trinity Methodist Church Food Program in Millville.

A time to recognize gifts . . .

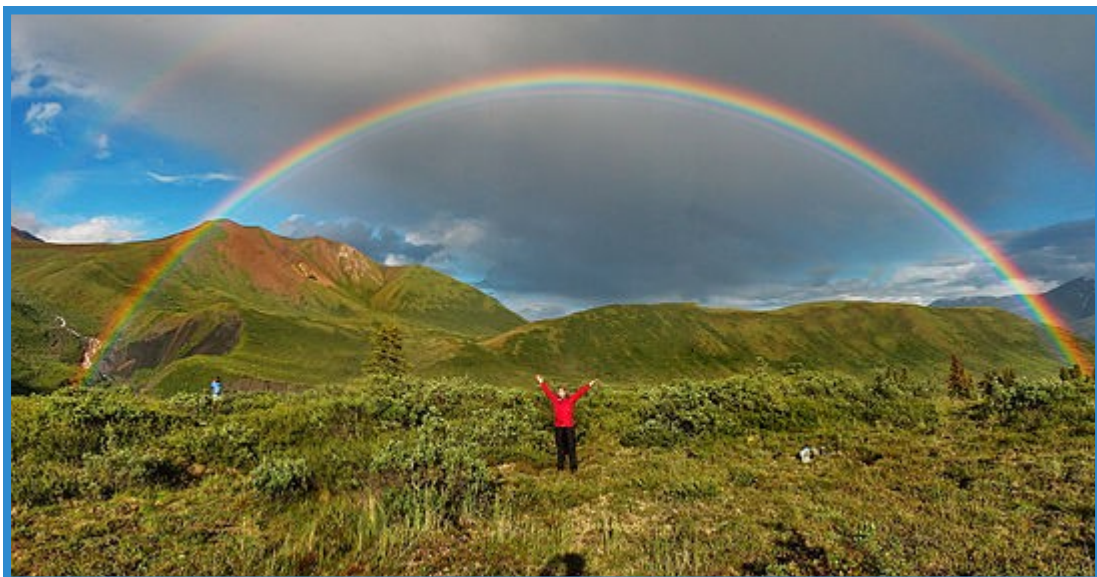
Huge **thanks to Bob D** for welcoming us into his beautiful home for the Time Out Tuesdays February luncheon.

After a delicious lunch prepared by **Harriet W**, Bob shared how God has opened doors for him throughout his career as a producer. In the process of producing plays (which he didn't set out to do), he has been able to help people across the world.




Bob's story shows us how God uses us to be his hands and feet.


Donations of **\$158** were **collected** on "**Souper Bowl**" Sunday with the Chiefs as our winning team. Donations will go to the **Bethany Grace food program**.



March Revelings

March this year in Southern NJ brings ponderings, spring cleaning, and celebrations. We always can use a little bit, a “wee bit O’Wisdom” for our lives, from within God’s Holy Word and from other voices/sources. So hopefully you’ll find these helpful and meaningful.

 **Irish Proverbs-**(<https://graciousquotes.com/>)
A tune is more lasting than the song of the birds,

and a word more lasting than the **wealth** of the world.
A good word never broke a tooth. 



Life is like a cup of tea, it’s all in how you make it!
God made **time**, but man made haste.

Scottish Phrases To Get You Through Life-(<https://www.scotland.org>)

“A LIE IS HALF-WAY ROON SCOTLAND AFORE THE TRUTH HAS ITS BOOTS OAN”.
Translation: “News travels fast, so be careful what you are saying”.

“KEEP THE HEID”.

Translation: “Keep calm, and carry on – everything will be ok”.

“WHIT’S FUR YE’LL NO GO PAST YE”.

Translation: “If it’s meant to be, then it will happen for you”.

“LANG MAY YER LUM REEK”.

Translation: “I wish you good luck and good fortune for the future”.

Spring Motivational Quotes (<https://www.fillingthejars.com>)

“Spring is the time of plans and projects.” — Leo Tolstoy

“You must prune to bloom. If the dead weight is not pruned and removed, it compromises the quality, performance, and output of the vine. When you prune what’s not working in your life, you make the space and place for renewal to happen and for new growth to spring forth.” — Susan C. Young

“Don’t wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul.”
— Luther Burbank

“Spring is coming... Time for some cleaning. Remove all the self-doubt, worry, jealousy, regret, anger, guilt, or any other negative emotions that are holding you back from your happy, fulfilled life.” — Nanette Mathews

“To find the universal elements enough; to find the air and the water exhilarating; to be refreshed by a morning walk or an evening saunter; to be thrilled by the stars at night; to be elated over a bird’s nest or a wildflower in spring — these are some of the rewards of the simple life.”— John Burroughs

“One attraction in coming to the woods to live was that I should have leisure and opportunity to see the spring come in.” — Henry David Thoreau

“Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s party!’” — Robin Williams

From God's Holy Word:

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth." **Ephesians 1:7-10**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." **John 3:16-17**

"The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent" **Acts 17:30**

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." James **5:16**

"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God." **1 John 4:15**

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." **James 4:7**

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." **Ephesians 4:32**

For the first time in several years, the entire month of March we'll be in the season of Lent, until its very last day, which will be Easter Sunday. Our time of darkness and winter's blues can look forward to Easter Joy and the time of spring to come. Of note too, if we look at the calendar, March 31st (Easter Sunday) is followed by April 1st (April Fool's Day). Yes March 31st and April 1st always are together. The interesting thing for this year in particular is, Easter is paired with April Fool's Day, back to back. Talk about God's sense of humor, and getting the last laugh!

As I looked over the above sayings, phases, quotes and scriptures, I thought about how much the season of Lent is a time of "Spring Cleaning." For something new to begin in or again in us, sometimes we have to make room for it. Sometimes we have to clean out the cobwebs in the corners of our lives, dust ourselves off, and start all over again, as a song's lyrics once said. (my thanks to Nanette Matthews for this thought thread). So yes we should (and must?) submit ourselves to God and resist the devil, (in ourselves perhaps?) in the world around us. I'm thankful for the times of my own ignorance that God has forgiven me for. How about you?

As we emerge from the doldrums of winter's grey/darkness, let us continue to be kind and tender-hearted, praying for each other, forgiving each other. Let us get out of the house, out into the outdoors, to enjoy nature's rebirth that is coming forth as a dazzling show. It is God's gift to us and for us. Let us celebrate our heritage as Presbyterians of Irish, Scottish, Welsh and English ancestry, gifted to us by those that made the treacherous journey across the sea/air/land. Let us celebrate our Celtic Christian heritage too. After all who doesn't enjoy a good party?

The gift of Christ's rising from the tomb of darkness into eternal life is God's gift to us, and God has the last word and laugh always. Easter Joy - a real reason to party, and spring's rebirth in nature, in the words of the late comedian Robin Williams, "Let's Party!" Happy March! Rev. Norlita



HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

April 7

Holy Humor Sunday is April 7th!!!
Looking for **good clean jokes** to be shared during worship on that day.
Please submit your jokes to the church office **by March 24, 2024.**
Thank you!



Save the Date
Presby Perennials
Afternoon Tea
Saturday,
April 13, 2024
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



**Transatlantic songwriter, guitarist and banjo player
Zoe Mulford**
performs a program of new songs and old favorites.
Sunday, April 7 • 2:00 pm
Bridgeton Public Library, 150 E. Commerce Street

Refreshments provided by Friends of the Library.

Tickets - \$10 per person

TICKETS AVAILABLE at the Library or
mail check payable to "Friends of the Library" to
Bridgeton Public Library, Att: Yvonne
150 East Commerce Street, Bridgeton NJ 08302

Proceeds will be used to purchase books for the library.

A time to care. . .

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/1 Gae F
3/1 Joseph S
3/8 Bruce C
3/13 Betsy C
3/13 Franz P
3/16 Robin F
3/18 Sandy Z
3/24 Jeremy P
3/28 Bill C
3/28 Darlene F



If you or a family member or a close friend needs prayer, please contact the church office or one of the deacons.



Don't forget to **SPRING FORWARD** Saturday, March 9th before you go to bed.



A time to plan . . .



March Meetings

Session Meeting Sunday, March 10 following fellowship
Deacons Meeting Monday, March 11 @ 7:00
Trustees Meeting Monday, March 18 @ 7:00

SERVING IN MARCH

DATE

USHERS

COUNTERS

March 3	Team 1: Curtis H., Debbie H., Frank P.	Team 1: Debbie F., Sherry M.
March 10	Team 2: John A., Bruce C., Ken F.	Team 2: Marion C., Heather N.
March 17	Team 3: Marie D., Joyce I., Heather N.	Team 3: Yvonne C., Debbie H.
March 24	Team 4: Bruce H., Howard T., Bill F.	Team 4: Marie D., Joyce I.
March 31	Team 5: Beth S., Ron S., Kahlil W.	Volunteers

MARCH WORSHIP FLOWERS

March 3: In Memory of Loved Ones
 March 10:
 March 17:
 March 24: Worship Committee
 March 31:

FELLOWSHIP IN MARCH

March 3: Connie C.
 March 10:
 March 17: St. Patrick's Luncheon
 March 24:
 March 31:

Blank spaces for flowers and fellowship? Would you consider helping us to fill them in? It takes a village.....

Spring is finally here.
 ... I think ... Maybe
 ... Hopefully.



Visit Jim Hunt at [facebook.com/huntcartoons](https://www.facebook.com/huntcartoons)

Did you ever notice that Dad calls this March Madness because of basketball, and Mom calls it March Madness because it's our spring break.



@Hairyrose.com2017



March 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship 10am 3	4	5	Book Study 1:00 pm Lenten Evening Prayer 6:45 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	7	8	9
Worship 10am 10	11	12	Book Study 1:00 pm Lenten Evening Prayer 6:45 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm Franz P & Betsy C.	14	15	16
Session Mtg. after worship	7:00 pm Deacons Meeting			Crafters' Comradery 1:30-3:30pm Bonham Hall		Robin F.
Worship 10am 17	18	19	Book Study 1:00 pm Lenten Evening Prayer 6:45 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day	7:00 pm Trustees Meeting Sandy Z.	Lunch Bunch 12 pm La Vita in Vineland		Crafters' Comradery 1:30-3:30pm Bonham Hall		
Worship 10am 24	25	26	Book Study 1:00 pm Lenten Evening Prayer 6:45 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm	28	29	30
Worship 10am 31	1			Thursday Mundy Worship 6 pm Potluck 7 pm Service Crafters' Comradery 1:30-3:30pm Bonham Hall Darlene F. & Bill C.	Church Office Closed	Easter Flowers delivered by 10 am to church
Easter Sunday	Easter Monday Church Office Closed April Fool's Day				Good Friday Please spend some quiet time to reflect on what Christ's dying for us means to you.	