

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

First Presbyterian News April 2014

Volume 52 No. 7

Holy Week begins April 13. Please join us in worship:



Palm Sunday, April 13, 10:00: We will hear and reflect on Jesus' enigmatic entrance into Jerusalem the final week of His earthly life. Children are invited to join in the palm branch processional at the beginning of the service.

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 6:30 p.m.: In a Tenebrae Service, we will hear again of the night Jesus gathered with His disciples for the Last Supper and was betrayed into the hands of His enemies.

Good Friday, April 18, 7:00 p.m. at Sunnyside Presbyterian Church, 115 South Frances Street, South Bend: Several South Bend churches are gathering at Sunnyside for an ecumenical Good Friday service, and we have been graciously invited to join them.

Easter, April 20, 10:00 a.m.

We will celebrate Christ's Resurrection with hymns, lilies, and the Lord's Supper.



Special Easter Fellowship

Please join us after worship on April 20th for a special Easter Fellowship provided by the Deacons. There will be all kinds of yummy treats that are bunny approved. It would be wonderful if everyone would invite a friend or family member to our worship. It would be a blessing to both of you.



The One Great Hour of Sharing will be received on Palm Sunday. You will find your envelope in your box of envelopes that you received at the beginning of the year. It is between the April 13 and April 20 envelope. You will also find envelopes in the pews. Please give generously. Thank you.

Michael Duryea Conducting Recital March 30

You are invited to the Lady Chapel in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Sunday, March 30, at 5pm to hear the Notre Dame Master Singers perform works of sacred choral music with string orchestra, including Haydn's *Kleine Orgelmesse* and Bach's *Christ lag in Todesbanden* cantata. Conducting will be our organist, Michael Duryea, and fellow student Brendan Barker.



Prayer Group.

We meet to unite in prayer. Our meetings vary in locations and last approximately one hour. Requests for prayers can be made to Janet Freeman or Betty Favorite. {prayer: answers to, daily, for growth and change, for our enemies, power of...Prayer} Please contact Janet for details. jfree930@aol.com

Easter Lilies for the Sanctuary

If you would like to provide an Easter lily in memory of someone or to celebrate an event or just "because", please send cash or check to Deborah with your message for the bulletin. Each lily will be \$10. They will be purchased on April 19.

Bell Ringers We will be ringing the prelude for Palm Sunday, April 13.

If you are interested in learning how to join in on the fun of ringing, please let Judy Green know.

(mtcgjag@aol.com) The group only rings a few times each year and welcomes all ages and skill levels.

Buy Stamps! Why wait in line at the post office? You can buy your postage stamps during Fellowship and support the Deacon's Christmas project! One of the Deacons will be selling stamps the second Sunday of every month starting in April. That will be April 13. What a great way to purchase what you need and give back to the community at the same time!

2013-2014 Book Club

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book & Author</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Snacks</u>	<u>Hostess</u>
4/13/14	The Good Dream by Donna Van Liere	Dyan P	Judy G	Beth D
5/18/14	Mennonite in a Little Black Dress (Memoir) by Rhoda Janzen	Judy S	Dyan P	Darlene
9/21/14	The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh			

**Book Club is at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend, come monthly or whatever your pleasure, even if you haven't read the book.*

**We take turns hosting, leading and providing snacks, but no one is obligated to do that.*

**Contact person is Judy Green- mtcgjag@aol.com*

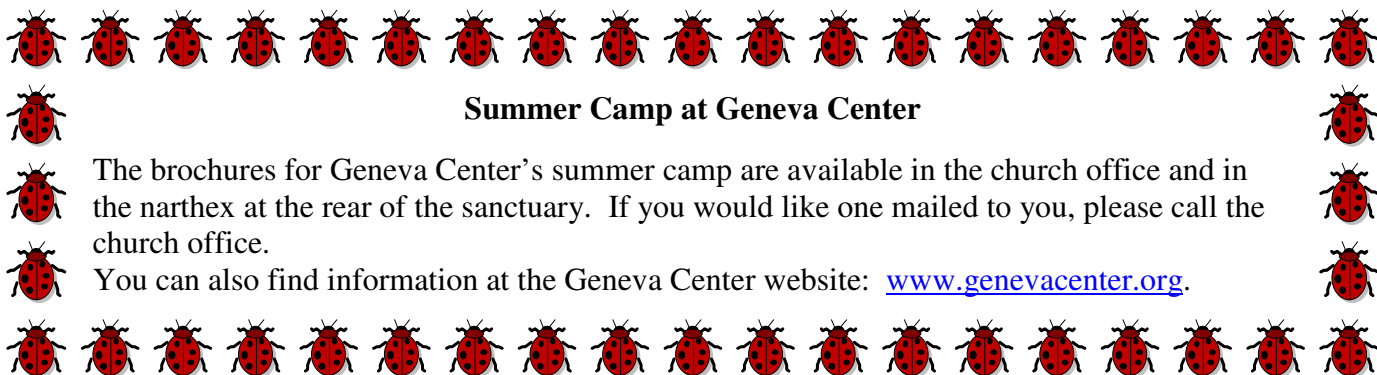
SCRAPBOOKING CLUB

Join us for a night of fun and fellowship at our Scrapbooking/Crafting Group! We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 6 pm to 11 pm. Provided is the set-up, clean-up, drinks, and tableware. The cost is \$5. If able, please bring a snack to share. Feel free to bring any type of project that you have to work on...knitting, cross stitch, crochet, scrapbooking, card making, painting...I am sure there are many more that can be named! The list of dates for 2014 are below, mark your calendars
Looking forward to seeing you there, Brittany Rice scrap.brittany@comcast.net

April 25th May 23rd June 27th Aug. 29th Sept. 26th Oct. 24th Nov. 21st

Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School

The Preschool will discuss Easter with rebirth examples, crosses and Jesus. The children will also be practice their hopping, and decorating of eggs. This month the three year olds will have their annual Ice Cream Social. This is a celebration of spring with singing and ice cream served by the children to their family. The preschool will follow the Mishawaka School schedule for spring break April 7th thru the 11th. Again this summer PWNS will have a six week summer school filled with highlights and reinforcements of the fundamentals to help the children get ready for kindergarten. If there is a small one who you think could enjoy this class please refer them to the church office for more information. *The PWNS staff*



Summer Camp at Geneva Center

The brochures for Geneva Center’s summer camp are available in the church office and in the narthex at the rear of the sanctuary. If you would like one mailed to you, please call the church office.

You can also find information at the Geneva Center website: www.genevacenter.org.

The Special Gifts Committee works to reverently and carefully use funds to honor the memory of *our* departed “saints”. The committee of four works to provide grants to assist with immediate needs and with the Memorial Endowment to provide the church long-term needs.

This year the committee has set aside some funds for Geneva Center scholarships, so if you know of a child looking to attend camp this summer please contact one of the committee.

Thank You

Betty Johnson, Ida LaBelle, Gordon Reif and Sue Rice



MAC Mishawaka Alliance of Care

An encouraging statistic was reported at the March MAC Board Meeting. Trends recorded since 2010 reflect the ebb and flow of the numbers of clients served. The numbers seem to fit along the lines of what has occurred throughout the United States during the years of the economic recession.

The encouraging factor is what we read for the year 2013. There were 441 fewer households coming to the Pantry than were served in 2012. The number of NEW households needing help dropped as well.

Volunteers heard stories of folks who had used the Pantry in the past and were now in a position to donate food items, knowing what it was like to have been clients in need.

Kem Hardy, volunteer director, asked member churches to be sure congregations are aware if they know of a family in need, tell them about the Albright Food Pantry.

The group of volunteers working through the week preparing for clients will be honored in May for the many hours of service they give.

I am searching for people who would like to help Greet on Sunday Mornings. Greeters are stationed at the East Door and would need to be available around 9:30-9:40 to greet. If you would like to help with this task please let me know and I will put together a schedule. If there are dates that are better for you or you cannot do, please let me know. Thanks for considering this service. Lynett Heritz, Deacons

Who Killed Jesus Christ?

*Ah, holy Jesus, how have You offended,
that mortal judgment has on You descended?*



As we approach Holy Week, I want to dip into one of the thorniest historical-theological questions of Passion Week: who killed Jesus? That is to say, who was ultimately responsible for His death?

Unlike the questions of who killed Roger Ackroyd, or Roger Rabbit, this is not of mere literary or cinematic interest. Nor is it simply an arcane question for scholarly and theological debate. It is a question whose various answers have deeply influenced the course of Christianity and world history.

On one level, it's an easy question. There is no doubt that Jesus was crucified. Both the Biblical account and ancient historians attest to this fact. In Roman-occupied lands, crucifixion was done only by the Romans. Indeed, frequent use of crucifixion was an instrument of their oppressive power, meant to keep the people in fear and subjugation. So the Romans killed Jesus. But were they ultimately responsible? The synoptic gospels suggest not. If I may quote Wikipedia:

Mark, depicting Jesus as innocent of plotting against Rome, portrays Pilate as extremely reluctant to execute Jesus, blaming the Jewish priestly hierarchy for his death. In Matthew, Pilate washes his hands of Jesus and reluctantly sends him to his death. In Luke, Pilate not only agrees that Jesus did not conspire against Rome, but Herod Antipas, the tetrarch, also finds nothing treasonable in Jesus' actions.

If the Romans were complicit but not ultimately responsible, whose fault was it? At the risk of greatly over-simplifying complex issues, let me suggest that there are four principle answers, each with its own consequences. They are:

“The Jews:” The synoptic gospels generally identify the moving powers behind Jesus' death as one segment within the Jewish faith, namely “the high priests.” In John's gospel they are simply “the Jews.” Who killed Jesus? In John's view, “the Jews.” And it is largely from this unfortunate terminology that Christian anti-Semitism – the view that Jews are “Christ-killers” – has grown. I don't need to tell you of the havoc and horror that “Christians” have caused against Jews because of that view, from medieval pogroms to the Nazi Holocaust.

Humanity (You and Me):

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon You?
It is my treason, Lord, that has undone You.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied You; I crucified You.*

These heart-breaking words from the classic hymn (so beautifully sung by Vicky Garrett in our March 16 worship) come from a particular theological understanding of Jesus' death, namely, “substitutionary atonement.” The idea is that the cumulative burden of human sin is so heavy that divine justice demands some sort of sacrifice. Indeed, human guilt, in which we all participate through both our choices and the “original sin” of Adam and Eve, is so enormous that the only possible sacrifice great enough to satisfy divine justice would be the sacrifice of God's own Son. So, in this understanding, Jesus had to die in order to allow God to forgive human sin. And, in a corollary theory rejected by most theologians but graphically depicted by Mel Gibson's movie, it was not only necessary for Jesus to die, but He had to suffer horribly, because the strength of God's forgiveness was somehow tied to the degree of His suffering.

God: To suggest that God is responsible for Jesus' crucifixion and death sounds perverse. But, some theologians argue, that is the logical consequence of the doctrine of substitutionary atonement. If God is the source and creator of all that exists, then God must have created the very “divine justice” that would require the death of God's own Son. Why, they argue, could not God have done things differently? What power could be beyond God's control? And, if God could have avoided this result but did not, what would that say about the character of God? Dominic Crossan (see below) goes so far as to suggest that the doctrine of substitutionary atonement is “blasphemy.”

The “Temple-Imperial” Powers: A number of recent scholars, including Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan, reject the notion of substitutionary atonement. In their view, Jesus' mission was not to die for our sins, but rather to embody and initiate the Kingdom of God among us. They argue that the question is not so much “how has Jesus offended,” but rather “whom did Jesus offend?” And the answer is: the very powers who conspired to kill Him, namely the Roman Empire and the temple authorities. Examining scripture and history, they conclude that Jesus, in His carefully-staged entry into Jerusalem, deliberately mocked the Roman Empire's view of power and domination. In “cleansing” the Temple, Jesus deliberately challenged the Temple system, which collaborated with the Roman occupiers. Jesus' Kingdom, they argue, is inherently antithetical to the domination and oppression of empires. So Jesus suffered a political death because He challenged the existing “principalities and powers” of His day: temple religion and its easy alliance with the Roman Empire. Further, they argue that Jesus continues to challenge every alliance of religion and “empire,” including that of “Christian” American imperialism.

Whew! That's quite a chunk of theology. Some of these ideas may be offensive or uncomfortable. Where does all this leave us? The mystery of the cross is ultimately beyond our understanding, and I believe none of these views has the whole truth (and the anti-Semitic view has no truth at all). But we are called to wrestle with these issues. Because our understanding of Christ and the cross have consequences, for us and for our world.

Church Office hours: 9:30 to 12:00, Monday thru Thursday
 Pastor hours: Monday and Wednesday
 Financial Secretary hours: Monday and Thursday mornings.
 Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or Fax (574) 259-1948
 Email us at www.fpcmishawaka.org



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CHURCH STAFF
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Choir Director

Susan May

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Organist Michael Duryea

mduryea@nd.edu

Custodian Ken Vargo

Pastor Emeritus

Franklin W. May

Church Officers and Committees

The Session: Pam Camren,
 Mary Ann Dentino, John Martz,
 Stan May, Bruce McClure,
 Darlene Seufert

Board of Deacons: Bill Bellairs,
 Tom Camren, Lynett Heritz, Carole
 Polk, Bill Walter, Chris Wukovits

Facilities and Operations

John Martz, chair (elder)
 Ethan DeMaegd, Dick Dentino,
 Chuck Wukovits

Christian Education: Darlene Seufert

Finance: Stan May, Chair

Mission and Evangelism:

Mary Ann Dentino, Chair

Nominating: Dave Sulak, Chair
 (Elder)

Personnel: Bruce McClure, Chair

Presbyterian Women: Judy Green
 and Darlene Seufert

PWNS Board: John Rice, Chair

Special Gifts: Sue Rice, acting chair

Stewardship: Ron May, Chair

Worship and Music: Pam Camren, Chair

Book Club: Judy Green

Prayer Chain: Lynett Heritz

Scrap Booking: Brittany Rice

Newsletter deadline is
April 17 at noon. Please
 send information for
 April. You can email
 information to Sue at
suce@aol.com or you
 can mail information to
 the church.

Dear FPC Friends & Family, thank you for your prayers,
 thoughts, cards and visits during my hospital stay and recovery.
 These brought me daily comfort, Ida LaBelle

Pastor Mary Ann Banning has accepted a call as a Transitional
 pastor to Flora Presbyterian Church in Flora, Indiana. Please
 contact the church office if you would like her new address.

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, comforting words and hugs
 received during the loss of my sister. The support and love of the
 congregation was felt during this time. We will find comfort in the many
 special memories that we have of Shari. Mary Ann Dentino

Family of Rod MacLean:

Remember daughters Brenda Fleming and Carol
 Rhoades and the family on Rod's death on March 13.

There will be no public visitation or services.

Memorials may be made to the church.

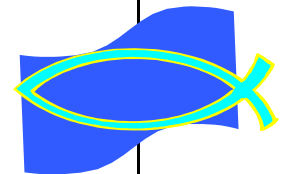
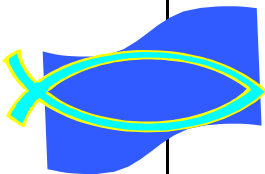
The church's Benevolence (Geans) Fund, which is used for charitable purposes including
 helping church members with emergency financial needs, is running low. Can you help
 replenish this fund, so that it can be ready when needed? Please make checks payable to the
 church, marked "Benevolence Fund." Thank you.

PICTURES FOR WEBSITE

We are seeking pictures of recent church events.

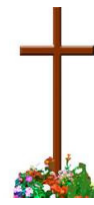
If you have any, please bring or email them to the church office.
 We also seek photographer(s) to take pictures of church activities.









If you are interested, please speak to Steve Braden.





APRIL



Sunday	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 10am Music & Worship Basement sale work day	2 6-pm Bells Basement sale work day	3 Basement Sale 9 to 6 10am MAC	4 Basement Sale 9 to 2	5 Bag Sale 10 to noon Clean up after
6 Dick Dentino & Dan Bruner Ushers, Communion, Judy Sulak Worship Leader 4-5 TC Singers 4:15- 5:30 Circle the State/Song	7 All schools Spring Break 7 th —11 th	8 7pm Finance	9 6pm Bells	10 	11	12 Pride Bridal Shower 1 to 5pm Fellowship Hall
*13 Palm/Passion Sunday <u>One Great Hour of Sharing Received</u> Carole Polk & Bill Bellairs Ushers, Chris Kiama Acolyte, Joseph Kiama Worship Leader 4-5 TC Singers 4:15—5:30 CTState	14 1:30pm Session 7pm Deacons & Facilities	15 7pm Steering Comm. of TC Singers	16	17 First Pres News Deadline 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service Communion	18 All schools Closed Good Friday 1pm Esther Circle	19   
*20 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Dan B. & Ethan ushers, Communion Darlene Seufert Worship Leader	21 S.B. Schools closed	22	23 	24	25 Scrapbook & Crafts 6 to 11 Fellowship Hall	26
27 Gifts of Women 4 -5 TC Singers 4:15—5:30 Circle State 7pm Recital of SB Symphony Yth Assmb	28	29 	30			

***Choir practice 8:30 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 11:00 Church School 11:15**



a community-wide talent show for senior high youth

Michiana Youth Showcase will feature twenty-six of the most gifted teenagers in Northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan!

This Showcase, sponsored by Michiana Youth Ministries, will be held at 7:00pm on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at the Battell Center in Mishawaka, IN.

Twenty-six teenagers representing ten area high schools will perform classical and contemporary music as they compete for cash prizes in this second annual community-wide talent show.

There will be a great mix of musical styles and genres: flute quintet, classical vocal, a rock band, piano solo, acoustic guitar & vocals and even a barbershop quartet.

The Master of Ceremonies will be Joanna Beasley, a Christian singer / songwriter. Joanna, who in 2005 was one of the final 80 contestants on "American Idol," will perform a few of her songs while the panel of judges tabulates the results of the competition.

Admission is \$10.00 – or a family ticket is \$25.00 for up to four related persons. To purchase tickets or for more information, please go

to www.michianayouth.org/events

or call 574-274-5990.