



## **Presbyterian Times**

**2019**

*First Presbyterian Church*  
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### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR**

Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

#### The Season of Newness

This year it seems as if spring will never truly get here. We enjoy a sunny warm day, and then the clouds come back, the temperatures drop, and again we are suddenly in the gloomy days of winter. Our minds, bodies, and spirits are READY for spring, for budding trees, blooming flowers, and sunshine that warms us through and through. We are ready for the cycle of life to begin again.

Just as spring seems to be dawdling, Easter is also taking its time to arrive. We have had a good break between Christmas and Easter, and that may be a good thing. We all need time to recover from the winter holidays. Just as we long for spring, however, many of us may long for new life in Christ. We look for signs of Christ alive in the world, and we long to see him present in our lives. It is often a struggle to remain optimistic, to remain faithful when we do not see God's presence as we believe we should. We become impatient and want the Easter miracle to always be with us rather than imagining the suffering Christ took on himself. He suffered with us and for us, but that is not the newness of life we like to imagine. Christ's suffering is part of our salvation story, though, whether we want it to be or not. His suffering, however, is tempered with resurrection, with wholeness and life.

So we wait. We wait for new life, for Easter, for the newness to permeate the old strongholds of wretchedness, hatred, grief, and suffering. We move into those places to bring the good news of Easter, to bring light into that darkness, to try to see how God is working for newness in ways we may not recognize.

As we wait for rebirth and new life, I offer you this prayer by Walter Brueggemann in the book entitled, [Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth](#).

*“No Newness Yet”*

*You are the God who makes all things new.  
We gladly raise our voices and move our lips  
to acknowledge, celebrate, and proclaim your staggering  
newness.*

*As we do so, we hold in our hearts  
deep awareness of all the places where your newness  
is not visible, and has not come.  
Our hearts link to many places of wretchedness  
short of your newness.*

*We picture our folks at home,  
sick, in pain, disabled, paralyzed  
and no newness yet.*

*We know up close the deep wretchedness  
of poverty, of homelessness, of hunger  
and no newness yet.*

*Move our hearts closer to the passion of our lips.*

*Move our lips closer to your own newness.*

*Work your newness in hidden, cunning ways among us.*

*Move us closer to your bodied newness in Jesus,  
newness of strength come in weakness,  
newness of wisdom come in foolishness.*

*Draw us from the wretchedness we know  
to his scarred, bloody wretchedness  
that is your odd entry of newness into our life.*

*We pray in the name of his suffering newness. Amen.*

*Peace, Pastor Lou Ellen*

- April 7            5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, John 12:1-11, "The Voice of Hypocrisy"
- April 14          6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, Luke 22:14-23, Luke 23:1-49 "The Voices Change"
- April 18          6:30 Maundy Thursday Service with Communion in the Chapel
- April 19          12:00 Good Friday Service in the Chapel
- April 21          Easter Celebration! Luke 24:1-12
- April 28          John Nipper, guest preacher (Pastor Lou Ellen on vacation)



## Easter Baskets of Hope

The Outreach Committee invites and encourages us all to fill our Easter Baskets of Hope for Russell House, GRACE and The Rolla Mission.

Each Sunday in Lent we ask that you bring a different item the ministries need.

Lent Week 3 (March 24)

Laundry Soap

Lent Week 4 (March 31)

All Purpose Cleaner

Lent Week 5 (April 7)

Dish Soap

Lent Week 6 (April 14)

Deodorant



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

**On Easter Sunday** we will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. The offering goes directly to address issues of poverty, hunger, and disaster emergencies throughout our world. This is a critical offering for our denomination and our ministries together. It is through this offering that we share with countless others the love of Christ when they are most in need.

Tread Lightly for Lent  
A Daily Reflection-Action Calendar  
from the Presbyterian Mission Agency  
Look for this daily guide at the back of the sanctuary to use through Lent and reflect on our impact on the world.

PALS LUNCH

Cheryl Koederitz

PALS will meet for lunch at 11:45 am on April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Tater Patch in Rolla.

PRESCHOOL NEWS:



Things have been a little quiet upstairs. Have you missed the cheerful decorations and child-created artwork? We have great news. The Preschool Management Committee is pleased to announce that the Presbyterian Preschool will be reopening this August. We are thrilled that Tracy James will be serving as the Director. She is currently searching for teachers and aides, and will soon be starting student enrollment. There will be many opportunities to help prepare the classrooms and playground, as well as volunteering once the Preschool opens. Watch for more exciting updates!



Presbyterian Manor held a Art Is Ageless Contest and our very own **Carol Jessop** won 1<sup>st</sup> place with a watercolor “ Snowy Woods” and **Barb Ford** won 2<sup>nd</sup> place with “ Mom’s Pink Sweater” First Place winners will be going on to Wichita.

### FROM THE OFFICE

Katie Sands, Office Manager

As we make preparations and updates for the Office/Sadler Lounge/ Nursery move we ask that all meetings be moved to the Journey Room for the time being. Upon completion I will send out an email when meetings may resume in new locations. Thank you all for your patience and cooperation while this takes place.



*April Birthday wishes go out to:*

2<sup>nd</sup> Deanne Jackson, 4<sup>th</sup> Cynthia Hobart, Bruce Russell,  
13<sup>th</sup> Mariesa Crow-Drewniak,  
18<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Schmidt, Britt Whitaker, Rhonda Kimball,  
24<sup>th</sup> Amy Whitaker, 26<sup>th</sup> Carrie Aswegan, 27<sup>th</sup> Ming Leu



*April Anniversary wishes go out to:*

4<sup>th</sup> Frank & Carol Jessop,  
17<sup>th</sup> Jim & Deanne Jackson



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Please pray for:** Betty Lemp (hospitalized for A-Fib) Ray Fox, Carrie Aswegan's cousin John Craven (stage 4 lung and liver cancer), Ming and Sophia Leu (sabbatical in Singapore), Marcia Brewer; Neil & Myrita Davis (Myrita on hospice care); Chuck Bennett, Ken Kwantes' father, Ken (stroke), Mary Williams; Kathleen Dean (ongoing respiratory issues). The prayer request list will start over about every two months. If you have someone who needs put on or taken off the list, please contact Katie in the office

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### **Spring Gathering "God is Faithful"**

*Loving us still,*

*God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.*

*Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,*

*Like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home.*

*God is faithful still.*

*"A Brief Statement of Faith"*

Launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church, the Spring Birthday Gathering celebrates Presbyterian women's history of giving. Now the Birthday Offering is an annual tradition and has funded more than 200 mission projects that touch the lives of women and children. Join us as we review our year and enjoy fellowship with each other.

Who: All women attending First Presbyterian and their friends!

When: April 27, 2019

Where: First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

Time: 11:00 AM

What: Lunch provided by the Presbyterian Women's Board

Program: The Mission of Presbyterian Woman through the Birthday Offering with Emma Lou Brent speaking about our local mission CASA.

A sign-up sheet will be located in hallway outside the office door, but, if you forget to sign come anyway and bring a friend! We would love to have you.



## Lenten Luncheons

### First Presbyterian Church

Join us for our three-week exploration of Spiritual Love.

*"So the divine love is sacrificial love. Love does not mean to have and to own and to possess. It means to be had and to be owned and to be possessed. It is not a circle circumscribed by self, it is arms outstretched to embrace all humanity within its grasp". --Fulton J. Sheen*

**11:45 AM -12:45 Lunch followed by our speaker.**

**\$5.00 - Soup, Salad, Dessert and Drink**

#### Week 1

March 28, 2019

Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Rolla First Presbyterian

#### Week 2

April 4, 2019

Rev. Harold Harrison

Alternative Hospice

#### Week 3

April 11, 2019

Rev. Allen Teal

Presbyterian Manor

**For Reservations:**

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