



# Lexington Presbyterian

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2022  
VOLUME 18

## It's officially Spring!

Even if it doesn't feel like, it is finally spring! The grass is getting greener, the daffodils are in bloom, and the time change makes the days feel a little longer. Even though the weather has been up and down, there are signs of new life. That's what adds to the beauty of this season. New life springing forth from the drab and dormate effects of winter.

It's beautiful watching new life emerge. Whether it's the flowers blooming, leaves that will soon be coming out on the trees, or the birds busy building their nests. It all comes as the days get longer and the weather starts to get warmer, even though it isn't getting warmer fast enough for many of us.

New life is a beautiful thing, it's a gift, and it's what makes this such an incredible time of year for us as Christians. We are about to wrap up Lent. A somber, winter like season in our faith where we think about the weight of our sin and we repent. It's a time when some fast and pray, and we reflect on what Christ has done for us. But then out of this somber season comes Easter. A day that can even make a Presbyterian shout Hallelujah! When Jesus rose from the

grave, He made it possible for new life to spring from our hearts.

The Bible is filled with verses that talk about new life springing forth from the old. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Ephesians 4:22-24 talks about our former life and our old nature and how we can put on our new self in light of what Christ has done. Colossians 3:1-17 talks about a similar thing, our old nature is gone, put it away, new life and a new nature has come because of Jesus. In Revelation 21:5 God says He is making all things new. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, new life can spring forth from the old. Beauty can come from the ashes, and hope can rise from broken.

As the signs of spring and warmer weather appear more and more in the days ahead, enjoy the beauty. Marvel at this wonderful world we have, and let it remind you of what God has done for us through His son Jesus. Spring has definitely sprung, but on Easter we will gather to celebrate the good news that new life has come through Christ, and that's not just for a season, that's eternal!

## Happy Birthday!

Happy April birthday to our family and friends! We hope and pray that each of you would have a blessed day celebrating and thanking God for another year to serve and enjoy Him. If we missed your birthday or if you have an April anniversary let Aaron know. And don't forget about the birthday offering basket at church which supports two children overseas: Melvin in Honduras and Shravani in India. Thanks, and have a truly happy birthday!

## April Birthdays

- Apr 5<sup>th</sup> Raymond Young
- Apr 7<sup>th</sup> Sarah Hunter
- Apr 7<sup>th</sup> Terry Johson
- Apr 8<sup>th</sup> Brian Davis
- Apr 13<sup>th</sup> Lisa Conder
- Apr 20<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Hunger
- Apr 20<sup>th</sup> Ashley Young
- Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan Kleopfer
- Apr 25<sup>th</sup> Thomas Ed Hutsell
- Apr 26<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Clapp
- Apr 28<sup>th</sup> Kevin Marshall

### The Birthday Offering Supports





# Good News

*Bad news is constant in this world. But Easter reminds us of not just good news...but the best news of all.*

Easter has felt different these last two years. Easter of 2020 was unlike anything we could have imagined. For years, our Easter services have been packed. It's always a busy Sunday but it's such a great day as families gather together to celebrate Jesus. But on Easter of 2020 the church was a lot quieter. It was just the Fluckes, Kayte, Larry, Dawn, and Bryan. It was strange talking to a camera rather than folks in the room. The strangest feeling was when the service ended, the camera was turned off, and the sanctuary was silent. It wasn't filled with people

talking, laughing, or catching up as they filed out the door for their own Easter celebrations. It was a tough year. 2021 was an improvement but still far from what we've been used to as a church. This year things seem better. The numbers change from day to day but at the time this was being written there were zero active cases of Covid in Scott County.

In light of where we've been and how far we've come, we're asking you to prayerfully consider two things this Easter. One, we would love to see you on Easter Sunday. This could be a great time to get

back into the routine of coming to church. We love being able to put our services online. We are looking at investing in some areas that will help us improve the online experience because we believe it's a valuable way to serve you while also reaching out to our community. But we also know there is something about seeing each face to face and worshipping together. Being together is important to our walk with Christ. Many of you have already started coming back and that has been so good. We hope to see more of you soon as we pray for continued progress in this pandemic.

The second thing we would like for you to consider is inviting someone to join you this Easter. It has been a hard two years and while Covid is fading, other issues are rising. People need hope, help, comfort and peace. With all the bad news, we all could use some

## John 3:16

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

good news, and there is no better news than what we celebrate on Easter. Christ has risen. Death is defeated. God does truly love the world and he sent Jesus to save us. We all need to be reminded of that good news.

As things continue to improve, we hope that you would consider coming this Easter Sunday and bringing a friend. We all could use some good news, and on Easter we remember the best new of all!

# Fasting & Prayer

*Beginning at 6pm on April 13<sup>th</sup>, and going through 6pm on April 14<sup>th</sup>, for those who can.*

Prior to the pandemic some of us at church would fast and pray from Wednesday evening to Thursday evening during the Easter week. It's only 24 hours but for those who did it, it felt long enough. Fasting and prayer are important spiritual disciplines. It's mentioned over 70 times in the Bible. Moses, Daniel, the disciples in the book of Acts and even Jesus fasted. The purpose is focus on God and to remind ourselves that we need Him more than we need anything else. Fasting can reveal our weakness and it can teach us to rely on God's strength. It can also deepen our prayer life, energize our soul, and it can help us set aside distractions so that we can listen and hear from God more clearly. The list of benefits could go on.

This year we are inviting those of you who are able to join us again for a 24 hour fast during Holy Week. Beginning at 6pm Wednesday to 6pm on Thursday. Please use wisdom with this. If you need to eat for health reasons please do so. You could find something else to fast; chocolate, caffeine, or turn off the screens. Whenever the hunger, the cravings, or the urge comes up, use that as a trigger to pray. Find a way to seek God more intently during this Easter season. Reflect on what He's done for you through Jesus. Thank Him for it and spend some focusing on Him instead of all the distractions that clutter our lives. If you do, I believe you will be blessed!



# Church Signs

The disco hit "Staying Alive," not only topped the charts in 1978, it's also been a hit in CPR classes. The song's rhythm is the perfect tempo for CPR. Chest compressions should be done at a rate of 100 beats per minute, but if you can't keep track of that, compressions can be done to the beat of that chorus. Singing that song could actually help someone stay alive. On Easter we don't celebrate the fact that Jesus stayed alive, we celebrate the fact He truly died and then rose again. He went from death to life. He didn't pass out or faint, and His resurrection wasn't something the disciples faked to keep the movement going. He really went from death, on that cross, to life, on Easter Sunday. One of the million reasons why we celebrate this is because it means that we can be the ones who are "staying alive." Jesus defeated death by His death. Now death is no longer the end for us, rather, it's the beginning of the life we were meant to live. One free from sin and all the realities of life in a fallen world. Because Jesus didn't stay alive but was raised to life, we can stay alive for eternity!





# Pastor's Pen

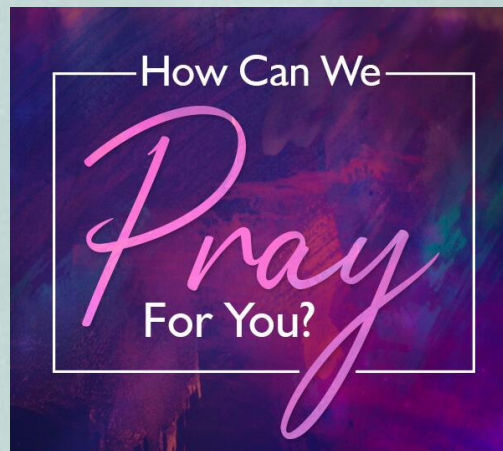
## *Lighting a Candle in the Darkness*

I was in college during 9/11 and the war in Iraq. During that time, we had a missionary speak at one of our chapel services. Following the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime this speaker's organization went into Iraq offering humanitarian aid and hope. I remember the video he showed of the kinds of things they were doing. The images of the kids receiving medical care, families huddled in tents, and displaced people lining up for food was moving. Seeing God's people serving, helping, and loving their neighbors, and praying with them, even though they were Muslim was a powerful image. The only thing I remember him saying in his sermon was a line that I don't think was original to him, but it stuck with me. The missionary said, "*You can either curse the darkness or light a candle in it.*"

The world can certainly be a dark place from the war in Ukraine to ongoing issues of poverty and addiction here in our own corner of the world. Whether it's political division, or the countless cultural issues, the darkness can feel overwhelming. I think that reality leaves us with those two previously mentioned options. We can curse the darkness. We can complain. We can argue, or become cynical and jaded. We can even busy ourselves with our own lives and essentially ignore the problems. Or, we can light a candle. We can seek God's direction about how we can help. We follow the Holy Spirit's leading and do some good in this world. We can be willing to go, serve, and love.

I feel like that's a better way to make this world a better place. I feel like lighting a candle in the darkness is how we live for a better kingdom, God's Kingdom. Lighting a candle is being the hands and feet of Christ.

Like so many of you, the images on the news of what's taking place in the Ukraine is heartbreaking and infuriating. The easy thing to do is curse the darkness, cast blame on whoever and wherever, but that doesn't change anything. Lighting a candle does. So, with that, I will be heading to a city in Romania called **Cluj-Napoca** to help a missions organization serve refugees. In some small way, I hope to light a candle in the darkness. As I do, I hope God will light a candle in my own heart too, so that I can love my neighbors better, whether I'm here at home, or somewhere else in God's precious world.



## Prayer Needs

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*

**1 John 5:14**

- Be in prayer for the family and friends of Bobby Miles
- Pray for Carl & Sheila McMillen and the family with the loss of Carl's mother Betty McMillen.
- The Clapps: Continue to pray for Bonnie and Buddy with their ongoing health issues.
- Michelle Greer's dad Terry Fulkerson whose health is continuing to decline.
- Dora Hawkins: Betty Tidwell's sister who is dealing with Alzheimer's and dementia.
- Kayte and Larry: Be in prayer for their ongoing health issues and for what has been a very challenging season.
- Jeannie Lyons needs prayers for healing.
- Carson Sanchez: Ronnie Baker's great nephew who has had some issues with his heart.
- Donna Sipe's arm is so much better, praise God! Continue to pray for strength and for the nerves.
- Pray for these two excitedly expecting families - Justin and Amelia McMillen and Eric and Valerie Stuber.

### Pray for those Battling Cancer

- Catherine Taylor
- John Harlow
- Rich Hinchman's sister Paula and sister-in-law Beth
- Bella a student over at Lexington Elementary

**Pray for the people of Ukraine and for peace.**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Easter Schedule: Invite someone to attend with you.**
  - April 10<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday
  - April 14<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday at LPC. We are inviting Kimberlin Creek to join us.
    - Dinner at 6pm
    - Worship Service at 7pm
  - April 15<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday service, 7pm at Kimberlin Creek
  - Easter Sunday - April 17<sup>th</sup>
    - Online Son-Rise service – Posted by 7am.
    - Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00am
    - Breakfast and refreshments will be available.
    - Easter Celebration Service 10:35am
- **Sunday Morning Breakfast** will be starting back soon! I don't think we've had an announcement at church that was met with so much excitement, but starting Easter Sunday we will bring back the morning goodies and coffee for those who would like to visit before service.



- **Maundy Thursday Pitch in Dinner, 6pm on April 14<sup>th</sup>.** Another opportunity to eat! For those who would like to bring something to this dinner let Donna Sipe know or see the sign-up sheet at church. We could use some help setting up and cleaning up too.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** at 10am Easter Sunday: We need candy donations, individually wrapped pieces that we can fill the eggs with. If we would have all the candy at church by Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, we could start stuffing the eggs after the Maundy Thursday service.



- **Ukraine Updates:** If you would like learn more about the organization in Romania that our church is helping you can find them on Facebook by searching for YWAM – ELS Cluj. Or type this link in your preferred search engine, <https://www.facebook.com/elsmcluj>. You can find videos of their housing and some of the work they are doing on their Facebook page.



## UPCOMING MESSAGES

Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – *Coming Home*

On Easter you know what the message is going to be about. There are no surprises during Easter week, or Holy Week, and there shouldn't be. The good news of what God has done for us through Jesus is our foundation as Christians. It's the reason why we do what we do and live how we live as Christians. It's the reason why we are God's children. Jesus' death and resurrection is home base for us.

As kids, whether you were playing baseball or a game of tag, you would have a home base that you could come back to. Easter is our home base, it's the truth we come back to again and again. It's a reminder that no matter what happens in this world we ultimately are safe because we belong to God. It's the good news that refreshes our souls and reminds us that the victory has already been won.

After a difficult two years, we hope that this Easter all of you and your family and friends would come home. Come back to the good news of Easter. Come back home to church. Let's worship together and celebrate how God made a way for all of us to come home through His son Jesus Christ, our Lord!



### **Church Contact Info:**

PO Box 237, Lexington, IN 47138  
LexingtonPresbyterianChurch.com  
Office Phone: 812-889-2871