



THE CARILLON

Monthly Newsletter
April 2021

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dudley Elvery, Transitional Pastor
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EASTER TIDBITS

Good Housekeeping magazine published on March 5, 2021, “The Fascinating History of Easter and How All of Our Favorite Holiday Traditions Came to Be” by Esther Chapman and Amanda Garrity. Enjoy these Easter tidbits of food from that article:

EASTER CANDY

“Every child knows that no Easter egg hunt is complete without candy. Exchanging chocolates and other sweets during Easter gained popularity in Europe during the mid-19th century, as companies developed methods for mass producing sweets and unveiled confections in fancy holiday shapes and packages, like Cadbury eggs.

“Jelly beans likely evolved from early fruit jellies such as Turkish Delight, a Middle Eastern delicacy. They entered the U.S. market sometime in the late-19th century, but didn’t gain their Easter association until the 1930s, according to the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America*.”

CHOCOLATE BUNNIES

“It’s hard to know exactly who created the first chocolate bunny, but it was probably someone of German descent, in either Germany or America. By 19th century Germany, pastry and sugar bunnies (some had hard boiled eggs inside of them!) were in production, and

bunny-shaped tins, used for chocolate molds, have been traced back to Munich in the 1850’s.

“Jury’s still out, though, because around the same time, Robert L. Strohecker, a business man in Pennsylvania, placed a 5-foot-tall chocolate rabbit in his drugstore’s window. By 1925, people in the United States could order chocolate bunnies, a special Easter treat, from a catalog. The rest is history.”

EASTER PEEPS

“Those sugary-sweet marshmallow candies were created in the 1950’s by Sam Born, who founded the Just Born candy company. He set up shop in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, making these treats especially appropriate for Easter. It initially took 27 hours to create a single Peep, but luckily Born’s son created a way to make the process more efficient—it now takes only six minutes!

“Peeps are available in a variety of seasonal shapes and flavors, but Easter chicks remain the most popular, according to the maker.”

HOT CROSS BUNS



“These Easter famous breads trace back to ancient Egypt, Rome, and Greece, where they served as sym-

bolts of honor toward their goddesses, according to Oxford Companion to Food. Later, these sweet breads became popular at Easter, especially in England where bakers were forbidden to sell spice breads except on special holidays, like the Friday before Easter.

“Many English believed hot cross buns baked on Good Friday would never grow moldy; they were kept as good luck charms hanging in windows, accompanied sailors on a voyage, or were buried in piles of grain to ward off rodents. Today, they’re mostly representations of the Christian symbol of the cross, as well as a sweet, buttery addition to an elegant Easter meal.”

SERVING LAMB VS HAM

“Although the choice of what to serve for Easter dinner might come down to taste preference, for others the menu holds great significance.

“In early Jewish history, lambs were sacrificed as offerings to God and served regularly as part of the Passover feast. Then, when Jesus died during Passover, he represented the ultimate sacrifice for sin, the ‘lamb of God,’ and the animal evolved into a potent symbol for Christians, especially at Easter. Many Orthodox Christians still follow the Jewish Orthodox customs of not eating any pork, so lamb takes center stage at their Easter meal.

“Others, however, wouldn’t imagine Easter without ham. Symbolizing ‘good luck’ for many cultures around the world, it made a fitting meal at all sorts of celebrations, according to the Encyclopedia of Religion. Some historians believe Easter’s spring timing also factored into the choice: Farmers typically slaughtered pigs in the fall and then took several months to smoke the pork, making a ham ready just in time for Easter dinner.”



COMMUNION SCHEDULE

April 4 10:30 a.m. virtual worship
Easter Sunday



SESSION REPORT

Regular Session Meeting, March 15, 2021

There were many conversations on a variety of topics, but almost no official Motions that required votes. The following list summarizes those topics.

- ✚ Taking a cue from our new friends at Calvary United Protestant Church, our yoking partner, our Session liked the idea of asking our Church Secretary to send a weekly calendar of activities,

worship, and events on Mondays to all members who have e-mail addresses in the church directory.

- ✚ Wednesdays are the deadline days for items to be listed in the following Monday’s calendar.
- ✚ If possible, the words of the Prayer of Dedication should appear on-screen following the offertory in our virtual worship services. Sometimes it is very difficult to hear the recorded voice when the speaker is between microphones in the sanctuary in an old pre-closing worship service.
- ✚ The implications of the coming resignation and departure of Director of Music/Organist Tim VanNasdale, who has accepted a full-time position in Hickory, PA (southwest of metro-Pittsburg), were discussed. Our Personnel & Administration Team now has the task of searching for Tim’s replacement in a strange job market. More information will come when more is known.
- ✚ The Stewardship & Finance Team is very close to activating the process of on-line giving to the church. It is expected that the giving “button” will be on our church website along with the weekly worship services.
- ✚ Session is still looking for volunteers to serve in appointed roles: Manager for the Class of 2023 on the Mission & Ministry Endowment Fund Board of Managers; and Elder/Commissioner to the Presbytery of Chicago Assembly for 2021.
- ✚ At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 21, 2021, the congregation approved a new procedure for taking votes on **congregational** matters through electronic and paper means. The new system will be tried for the first time in April 2021 with a vote on the members nominated to the 2021 Nominating Committee. The Motion will be sent out on Thursday, April 1, 2021, and the votes will be due by Thursday, April 15, 2021.
- ✚ The joint Good Friday worship service will be held in the sanctuary of Calvary United Protestant Church, Park Forest. Session agreed to allow Calvary to borrow our large cross for that service. Because the Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday worship services will be virtual on our website, the “missing” cross will not be noticed on the recordings.
- ✚ Communion has been celebrated for almost a year in the privacy of our homes as part of our virtual worship services. A suggestion was discussed for hosting a drive-by Communion at the church with our members remaining in their vehicles. Look for an announcement on this happening possibly as soon as Sunday, May 2, 2021.

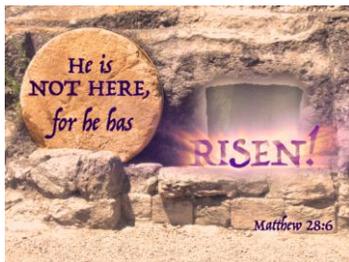
- ✚ The Clerk was asked to e-sign the Revised Ministry Information Form to complete the process of submitting it to the Church Leadership Connection database. This was the last step to be completed before our pastoral position opening could be posted nationally. Pastoral Information Forms should soon begin coming to the Pastoral Nominating Committees for the Homewood and Calvary churches.
- ✚ Member Care is alive and well at our church. Many of our members are participating in member care that is not officially noted or recognized, being performed individually from one person to another. We care for each other in so many ways that are not realized. Thank you to all who find time to be a friend to another.
- ✚ Our Faith Formation activities have evolved into continuing opportunities that have become self-sustaining. Both members and non-members are participating in Christian Education gatherings on Zoom, which is exciting. Thank you to all who are leading these events.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward C. Wahl, Clerk of Session



FROM THE PASTOR

The gospel stories following Easter present a mixed narrative. Quickly, the women at the tomb understood that things were different. Almost as quickly, they realized they were seeing Jesus. The women hearing his familiar voice, the travelers on the road to Emmaus seeing the bread broken, and Thomas touching Jesus' side—each and every one realized that having passed through death into a new life, Jesus was the same and different.



I think the church as we know it may be much the same. It has been slipping toward death for years. The pandemic certainly has sped up the slide. Sadly we see practices, programs, and structures of the past, of our youth, in tattered shreds. I also think that as the church, meaning the people and congregations, comes out of the tomb of the pandemic, all will be both recognizable and unrecognizable. Gathering for worship, engaging in acts of compassion, joining in fellowship as a community, learning and sharing together—all will still be there and

recognizable as such. The way, form, and place may not be the same. The core practices and mission of the church have survived cultural change and relocation. Consider the change from the first century to now. Our sanctuaries replete with organs, comfy pews, and stained glass for use by clergy, choirs, and congregants would be alien to first century Christians. Our prayer and scripture, bread and wine, and baptism would be cherished friends of theirs. These elements—gathering, singing, praying, listening to scripture, sharing sacraments of Baptism and Communion, going into the world to act out God's love in Christ—will for us, as they were for those early Christians, stay our friends, our practices. As Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr wrote in 1848, "*ce change, plus c'est la meme chose*" – the **more things change, the more they stay the same.**

Dudley Elvery

FEBRUARY ASSEMBLY OF PRESBYTERY

Anyone can attend an Assembly of the Presbytery of Chicago (city and suburbs), but only commissioners can vote: Teaching Elders (ministers) and Ruling Elders elected by their Sessions. Pastor Dudley and Karen Maurer attended the February 20, 2021, meeting, leaving First Presby Homewood short one commissioner. The composition of the Assembly has equal numbers of clergy and lay. Any Elder can be a commissioner: could that be you? Tell Clerk of Session, Ed Wahl.

The first hour of the meeting was a four-person panel: "Worship Practices for an Online/Hybrid World," all four PC(USA) national staff members. It sounds deadly, but was interesting and relevant.

- ✚ This is not the first time that worship by God's people has been disrupted! In 70 AD/CE, the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed.
- ✚ Disruption of habits requires an intentional response.
- ✚ Virtual/Vital worship.
- ✚ Liturgy is the work of the people (At FPC, it's Pastor Dudley, Tim, liturgists 1 & 2. Kathie H., Kathie D., Shirley, Laura, Laurie, Karen = a ten folks or more every Sunday collaboration).
- ✚ I have learned to embrace the chaos.
- ✚ Onstage/backstage/offstage.
- ✚ Invite the people of God to come and contribute their gifts.
- ✚ If not the walls, what are the invisible limits?
- ✚ Easter Vigil.
- ✚ Pre-recorded service (YouTube) / livestreamed (Facebook) / video-conferencing, porch, driveway, parking lot, post cards, phone calls....

Was there a quorum? Yes, 183 Zoom participants.

Highlights of the Business Meeting:

- Report by the Commission on Antiracism and Equity.
- Support for the IDI, Intercultural Development Inventory, a tool designed to build intercultural competence to achieve diversity and inclusion.
- PCC (Presbytery Coordinating Commission) recommendation for five members of the Nominating Committee; voted Yes. Update on the sale of the Evergreen Park church property, as well as other property transfers.
- COM (Commission on Ministry) reported changes involving clergy, including Pastor Dudley's service to Calvary; availability of editorial help with MIFs and PIFs; service to individuals and service to congregations.
- Financial reports: As of 12/31/20, the Presbytery's total assets were \$12,242,581.97. As of 12/31/20, there were 25,504 members in 82 churches, ranging from 22 to 5451 in membership.

Executive Presbyter Sue Krummel opened the Assembly with a short video of her standing beside an ice-covered magnolia, holding a bud—a promise that the ice would melt, spring would come, and the tree would be a mass of pink blossoms. Moderator Mike Welf gave the closing benediction. Karen Maurer



TRUSTEE REPORT

The regular meeting and the rescheduled meeting for March were not held due to conflicts with Jay Ruklic's participation on the Pastoral Nominating Committee. We are now scheduled to meet at our regular date, April 13. Information on committee appointments should be available at that time. Rod Dunlap



STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

Thanks to the generosity of our members throughout the past year and the receipt of two PPP loans from the Federal government, we have tried to accumulate cash balances in our checking accounts (see the 2020 Annual Report). With reduced, not eliminated, need to spend money even when worship is virtual and the building is closed, we still need some income. There are still bills to pay. We are also preparing for the call of a new called pastor and our new financial obligations that go with that position. Thankfully, we are in a good financial position with which to greet our new pastor when he or she arrives.

Update: Of the 88 potential giving units who received a pledge form for 2021, 40 have been returned. Thank you for the combined pledge total of \$120,571. If you have not yet returned your pledge, please do so soon. Yes, we do fully understand if your offerings need to go on hold even though you have made a pledge to give weekly or monthly. Thank you to all who have paid the 2021 Per Capita amount of **\$36.00**.

On-line giving is nearing readiness for your use. In the meantime, Use the following address for maximum safety:

First Presbyterian Church of Homewood
P.O. Box 1519
Homewood, IL 60430

The summary of receipts and disbursements for the First Presbyterian Church of Homewood for the month ending February 28, 2021, is in the following chart:

	<u>Through February</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>
General Fund Income		
Identified Giving	\$21,198	---
Loose Offering	0	---
Initial Offering	200	---
Required Min. Dist./Stock Sale	0	---
Community Dinners Donations	0	---
Other Income	16,577	---
Dividends & Capital Gains	0	---
Sale of Investment Shares	0	---
Endowment Fund Distributions	0	---
Transfer from Designated Fund	<u>0</u>	---
Total General Fund Income	37,975	---
General Fund Expenses		
Missional Ventures	\$0	---
Faith Formation	6	---
Facilities	7,354	---
Staff	13,059	---
Transition	7,421	---
Administrative Support	531	---
Purchase of Investment Shares	0	---
Transfer to Designated Fund	<u>0</u>	---
Total General Fund Expenses	28,371	---
Designated Fund Income	\$2,498	
Designated Fund Expenses	0	
Total Active Members—February 2021		104
Summary through February 2021 (2/12 of Budget):		
Income Over/(Under) 2021 Budget		---
Expenses Over/(Under) 2021 Budget		---
2021 Total Net Income (Loss) to Date		---

Thank you for your support from the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team. You make our job easier.

VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES



Sunday virtual worship services can be found on the church website fpchw.org. Join at 10:30 a.m. to be “together” for a service. The last ten Sunday services are stored there, too.



Part of our Yoking Agreement with Calvary is that we will collaborate with them for special services throughout the year. The week before Easter is a time for two of these special services: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

On **Maundy Thursday**, April 1, we will have a virtual service of music, candles, and readings at 7:30 p.m. Readers will be from both congregations. Because this service will appear on our website (fpchw.org), one can watch at 7:30 p.m. or any other time you would like.

Calvary will be hosting the **Good Friday** service, April 2, at 7:30 p.m. **in their sanctuary**. This service will be a powerful one, using voices that represent six people who could have been at the Crucifixion. The voices will be from both congregations. There will be a Christ candle, cross and stones (representing our burdens), and music. All are invited to attend **in person** or to worship at home **via Zoom**. (*Information for doing Zoom will be emailed out that week.*) This service will also be on our website as a recording beginning on Saturday morning, April 3, for viewing for those who do not have Zoom. If you attend the Good Friday service in person, please be aware that all current Covid 19 guidelines will be in place: masks will be required; social distancing will be in place; hand sanitizer will be available and encouraged

Easter Sunday virtual service—with Communion—is April 4 at 10:30 a.m. on our website, followed by Heavenly Perks on Zoom accessed from the website.

Please do try to join us for worship during Holy Week.
Laurie Ulrich

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY



Our Zoom classes continue to provide opportunities for us to grow in our faith by sharing insights and experiences based on the specific focus of each “group.” Each one is a faith-building opportunity: our

faith community is strengthened as we share with others what the Spirit gives to each of us. All of these groups have participants who are not officially members of First Presbyterian Church, so our family of faith—that is, the people with whom we share our faith and from whom we receive the support of other believers—has expanded beyond our membership list.

What had been called Panera Bible Study continues to meet each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. We’re certainly NOT meeting at Panera these days, but we still have 15-17 faithful participants each Tuesday. Please consider joining us—just let Laurie Ulrich know you are interested and she’ll send the link so you can click in to our meetings. We’ve been using the lectionary readings for the Lenten season as our basis for discussion, and Pastor Dudley has been using the same scripture for the following Sunday’s sermon, so we’ve gotten a “double dose” of the scripture’s lessons for us. By the time you’re reading this article, we will have decided on the focus for our next “set” of studies, which will begin after Easter.

Joyce Anders and Kathleen O’Hanlon have been leading a group on the first Monday of each month. This group is reading the book *Stamped from the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi and discussing the sometimes overwhelming history of systemic racism in the United States. Again, all are welcome to join us. We are about half way through the book, but that means we are talking about the early 20th century, so there’s LOTS more to come. And because it’s a monthly meeting, we’ll be continuing through the spring.

And our Wednesday Night group discussion around Christian Apologetics continues to be led by Tim Van Nasdale at 7 p.m. “Apologetics” has nothing to do with an apology, but rather aims to define ways of talking meaningfully about our faith with people who either are not Christians or who are curious about what it means to be a Christian. We’ve approached this from several different ways, using several different sources, and we are just getting ready to start a new study book. Look elsewhere in this issue of *The Carillon* for details—and get in touch with Tim to be added to this group. It’s really mind-stretching and faith-building!

It’s been a challenge to provide ways of staying in touch with our young children who were coming to Sunday School before the pandemic took us out of the building. Each week during our online worship service, Pastor Dudley continues to provide a Moment with Children, telling Bible stories written in a manner intended to expand a child’s understanding of the Bible.

We may not be using our church building, but we certainly continue the meaningful life of the church community! We are still here, and our faith journey continues to deepen. Laurie Ulrich

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY

Tim VanNasdale's Wednesday Evening Study has taken a long break to allow for his move to Hickory, Pennsylvania. The class will return in late April, exploring "On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision" by William Lane Craig.

This course is filled with illustrations, sidebars, and memorable steps to help Christians stand their ground and defend their faith with reason and precision. Dr. Craig offers four arguments for God's existence, defends the historicity of Jesus' personal claims and resurrection, addresses the problem of suffering, and shows why religious relativism doesn't work. Along the way, he shares his story of following God's call in his own life. This course is a one-stop how-to-defend-your-faith manual! It will equip Christians to advance faith conversations deliberately, applying straightforward, cool-headed arguments. They will discover not just what they believe, but why they believe—and how being on guard with the truth has the power to change their lives forever.

The study guide is available on Amazon for \$10. If you will be new to this class, contact Tim at tlvannasdale@gmail.com so that you get emails for when the class resumes—probably on a different day.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The congregation will be voting on the at-large members of the 2021 Nominating Committee in the month of April. At the Annual Meeting, the congregation approved taking votes via email and paper means, so this vote is the first one to be done by this new procedure. The Motion to elect Melodee Leimnetzer, Charlene Hansen, Lee Hilario, and Janet Wahl to be at-large members of the 2021 Nominating Committee (i.e. nominating Session and Trustees) will be sent out on Thursday, April 1, 2021, by email or by U.S. mail for those who have no email address. The vote is yes or no. Your vote must be returned by April 15, 2021.

PRAYER CARDS

The following members, friends, and staff of First Presbyterian Church of Homewood will receive a card telling them that the church is praying for them. Please pray for those listed each week. Kathie Darman

Week of April 4

Betty Owens
Elizabeth & Paul Palumbo
Marilyn Perdue
Judy Petrovic
Richard & Barb Pizza

Week of April 18

Jay & Debra Ruklic
Ron & Bev Shropshire
June Sluis
Shirley Smiddy
Pat Steiner



Week of April 11

Norinne Pulec
Helen Rachford
Janice Rolls
Betty Ross
Emily Rozak

Week of April 25

Eleanor Steiner
Brian & Kelly Tufts
Paul & Sylvia Tufts
Laurie Ulrich
Sandy Van Horn

HOSPITALIZED

In the hospital during the past month was Evelyn Dixon.

NURSING HOME / REHAB

Pat Steiner, Plymouth Place, LaGrange Park; Donna Anderson, Dobson Plaza Rehab, Evanston (hospice).

SYMPATHY

Church sympathy is extended to the families of Steve Halpin (Monday Dinner guest), Ed James (brother of Bob), and to Johnnie Dorsey on the loss of his father-in-law.



*I am the Resurrection and the Life
saith the Lord: he that believeth in me
though he were dead, yet shall he live:
and whosoever liveth and believeth in
me shall never die.*



GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

The following have been recorded in the Memorial Book in the Narthex: Warren Wahl and Mae Evert.

THANK YOU



Many thanks to Shirley Armistead for providing information on nearby locations for obtaining Covid 19 vaccinations. She has been doing the research for us!

 **MAY CARILLON**

The deadline for articles placed in the May *Carillon* is **Tuesday, April 20**. Please turn in all materials in writing and email the Editor at ewahl@sbcglobal.net. The Editor thanks the April reporters for their assistance.

J C =W=

 **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

April

Kathleen O’Hanlon
RoseMary Baird
Edward Wahl
Vern Moore

April

Tim Hamilton
Karen Barge Fillippo
Becky Montgomery Morad
Debra Campbell

May God grant birthday blessings to you
all this coming year.



The Beauty of Spring

Lee Hilario

The Spring of Life begins.
Activities and motion stirred.
The birds break their silence
And flap their wings with glee.

The soft winds heard in whisper
Brushed me swiftly across my brow
And roused my inactive senses
So gently and delightful.

Alas, around me has awakened
After a long winter slumber,
Everything comes alive again
Beyond the winter chill.

Deep in my heart tells me
No one can bring about
Such abundant growth
That God alone creates.



Spring brings revival.
Life begins anew,
The rebirth of life
To flourish and to grow.

As we celebrate the coming of spring,
As all things come to life,
Let us be thankful
That Christ gave new life to all.

From Calvary cross Jesus died,
Vanquished death from the grave.
Triumphant victory proclaimed
The promise of eternal life for all.

The Spring of Life begins,
The dawning day of grace,
With ransom too great a price—
The greatest gift of all.

With gladdened hearts and awe,
With adoration and joy,
Jesus is risen! Hallelujah!
Rejoice! He lives forevermore.

Happy Easter to All! Lee and Emmanuel Hilario

APRIL 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 EASTER				1  Maundy Thursday 7:30 virtual service on Website	2  Good Friday 7:30 Service at Calvary In person or on Zoom	3 Good Friday service on Website
4 10:30 Virtual Worship on the Website Easter Sunday Communion Heavenly Perks on Website	5	6 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom	7	8	9	10
11 10:30 Virtual Worship on the Website Heavenly Perks on Website	12 Stewardship Team on Zoom	13 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 Trustees on Zoom	14	15 Deadline for Votes by Congregation for at-large members of FPC Nominating Committee	16	17
18 10:30 Virtual Worship on the Website Heavenly Perks on Website	19 7:00 Session on Zoom	20 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom Carillon DEADLINE	21	22	23	24
25 10:30 Virtual Worship on the Website Heavenly Perks on Website	26	27 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom	28	29	30	