

April 2023

I have conflicting memories from childhood about what we did as a family on Easter. I remember the many meals at my grandparents' home with cousins and aunts and uncles. Family from far and near would gather and eat food, play cards, hike up the nearby hill, and gossip for hours. My grandmother would make little Easter baskets out of the strawberry square strawberry containers that supermarkets used for packaging. She would weave ribbon around them, construct handles, and fill them with plastic grass and treats.

The other memory I have is of going kite flying with my parents up on a hilltop out of town and picnicking there. The grass was barely growing and the hilltop had some muddy spots. But that didn't deter the kite flying one bit. My memory tells me that we ate standing up, not sitting on the spring-damp earth.

I know that we must not have done both activities – or certainly not both activities each year. In fact, I wonder now in adulthood if perhaps the kite flying wasn't on Easter at all! Maybe it was some day *near* Easter and my memory has blurred them together. What hasn't blurred is how it felt to go kite flying as a child – it felt like freedom.

It felt like even though I was small, I could do this big thing.

As a parent, I'm tempted when flying kites with my children to take the kite from them in order to get it up off the ground and into the air. But if I do that, then they won't themselves experience that sense that something big is happening and that they are in control of it.

With the Resurrection, there is something big happening. But we have no control over it at all. The followers of Jesus must have felt very out of control indeed while something big was happening in their midst. Jesus had tried to prepare them through his warnings and parables, but the reality of the resurrection was too big to have imagined before they witnessed Jesus alive again.

Easter day, in scripture, leaves us with many questions: where is the body? Is this really Jesus come back to life? What is happening here? It is only in the days and weeks and months that follow that the disciples and followers of Christ see the pieces fall into place.

Like a small child with a kite flying high, perhaps the Christian calling at Easter is to hold on tight! We grasp ahold of the story, knowing that it's something big. And as we hold on, as we wait, the most incredible story unfolds: Jesus rises from the dead.

May God's incredible blessings be upon you this Easter season.

Pastor Jessica



April 2023

SHARING OUR SUNRISE JOYS AND CONCERNS

"The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with JOY ... they shout and sing together for joy."

On this first day of spring 2023, with temperatures in the 20's and snow still clinging to the brown grass it is hard to imagine the overflowing pastures of which the Psalmist writes. Yet the joy of Easter is upon us so the scripture seems appropriate.

In looking for inspiration, I came upon the following story from about 5 years ago. It was a busy day and I was on my daily run of delivering grandkids to their activities. Upon dropping Cole off, he turned as he got out of the car and said, "See you in an hour." to which I teasingly replied, "No, you're on your own from here. Maybe I'll see you sometime." At first he looked askance at me and then said, "I know you're only kidding." I smiled and asked how he could be so sure. It was his response that started me thinking about our relationship with others and especially with God. He said, "Oh I know you would never leave me because you love me and you feed me." Is that not the same promise God gives us ... to always love us and feed us?

Scripture reminds us from Genesis to Matthew and beyond that we are always in the care of the Lord. Genesis 21:22 says, "God is with you in all you do." And Matthew 28:20 reminds us "For Lo, I am with you always ..." In all our days; in all our circumstances; in our joy and sorrows; as we mourn His death on the cross and celebrate His resurrection, He is present to love and feed us.

We know God's love and care are with those who are ill or suffering. This month we hold close Rod and Dixy Paronto as Rod deals with serious health issues in the hospital in Salt Lake City. He was there over a week with Dixy and has now returned back home to Great Falls and is at Park Place. Prayers for them as they deal with illness as well as being in an unfamiliar place. Archie Fuhrman continues to suffer with health concerns. Kevin Ferry was back in the hospital with a reoccurrence of a staph infection in his leg (now home), and our friend Marlene Tesch in Billings is grappling with heart issues. Prayers for all.

We give thanks that those we have prayed for recently are on the road to recovery. Helen DeVoss is improving daily at home after a long stay in the hospital; we were delighted to have Ruth Hickey back in worship and at coffee klatch after several weeks confined to home following a fall; Joyce Newman's son continues making progress after a stroke and I'm sure Joyce's visit to see him in Colorado was good medicine; Janette Forsyth's brother, Mike, is on the mend also. Glory be to God.

Sunrise is blessed to have those working in many ways with our family in Christ. Presbytery was a big success, with many volunteers behind the scenes and those working during the meetings to greet our friends from churches around the Presbytery with welcoming smiles, conversation, good food and mounds of cookies. Thanks to all. We were blessed to have Tim Lanham with us that weekend and to share his message about Glacier Camp during worship.

One of the joys we celebrate at Sunrise during Lent are our Holy Week Matins. I couldn't help but remember a service Jim and Ember Woods did several years ago. They lovingly made

April 2023

simple crosses from twigs tied together with twine to accompany their service. Each Lenten season I bring it out, placing the cross amidst some smooth stones as a reminder of the stone rolled from the tomb, and place a blown egg as a symbol of new life. On Easter morning I try to find a fresh flower (some years there is a tulip or crocus outside) to celebrate the JOY of the RESURRECTION. A physical reminder of the events of Holy Week. From the weeping and the sadness of the crucifixion to the joy of Easter morning, God continues to feed us with his love. Hallelujah! He is Risen!

"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst forth into song and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." (Isaiah 55:12)

In the sunshine of that first Easter morning, Tana

"Weeping may linger for the night, but JOY returns with the morning." (Psalm 30:5)



FISH Food Bank



	Feb 2023	Year to Date 2023	<u>Food Suggestions for April</u>
Families (non-Single)	36	78	• Peanut Butter
Singles	40	78	• Jam & Jelly
Adults	109	220	• Cold Cereal
Children	45	83	• Instant Oatmeal
Meals	2,310	4,545	• Pancake & Syrups
Pounds of Food	4,479	9,947	• Canned Fruit

- Our next volunteer week will be April 3rd-7th.
- The FISH bowl will be passed around the 1st Sunday of the month, April 2nd.
- In February, we raised \$289.00 in FISH donations.



Many thanks to all of you who contribute your time, money, and food to FISH.

THANK YOU

The return of the Loaves & Fishes diner was very successful due to the following:

- Western Office Equipment-sponsorship
- Thrivent Financial-Thrivent Action Team grant
- The OSLC Human Concerns committee
- The FISH Board members
- Folks who donated silent auction items

And mainly, thank you to the many folks who came and supported the FISH program!

April 2023

April Calendar of Events:

Apr 2	9:30 am	Worship / Palm Sunday
	10:45 am	Fellowship / Congregation Breakfast
Apr 3	7:00 am	Holy Week Begins (7am Matins Service, 7:30am Breakfast)
Apr 4	7:00 am	7am Matins Service, 7:30am Breakfast
Apr 5	7:00 am	7am Matins Service, 7:30am Breakfast
	6:00 pm	Case For Easter Book Study
Apr 6	7:00 am	7am Matins Service, 7:30am Breakfast
	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Apr 7	7:00 am	7am Matins Service, 7:30am Breakfast / Good Friday
Apr 9	9:30 am	Easter Sunday Worship / Communion / One Great Hour of Sharing
	10:45 am	Fellowship / Easter Egg Hunt
Apr 10	6:00 pm	Faith and Life Meeting
Apr 16	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Fellowship / Children’s Sunday School
Apr 18	6:00 am	Bus to Glacier Camp for Gigi Lanham Memorial (return around 7:00 pm)
Apr 19		Newsletter Deadline
	6:00 pm	Mission & Memorials Committee
Apr 20	10:30 am	Coffee Klatch
Apr 22		World Earth Day
Apr 23	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Fellowship / Children’s Sunday School
Apr 25	5:30 pm	Session Meeting
Apr 26		Newsletter Assembly
Apr 30	9:30 am	Worship
	10:45 am	Fellowship / Children’s Sunday School

Deacons on call for April: Pam Chigbrow & Bill McCullough



Faith and Life April events

The Faith and Life committee will be hosting a breakfast after church on April 2nd. This is Palm Sunday and the start of Matins week. Please sign up for Matins, if you need help, please ask Eric or Lee.

The Easter Egg hunt will be held for the children during coffee hour on Easter Sunday. Come watch the fun as the children are filled with joy.

April 22nd is world Earth Day. Look for more information from the Building and Grounds committee.

- Eric Chigbrow moderator Faith and Life committee.

April 2023

April	Daily scripture
1	Psalms 85:1-2
2	Isaiah 42:1-2
3	Psalms 71:1-3
4	Psalms 105:1-4
5	Isaiah 50:4
6	Psalms 116:10-11
7	Psalms 22:1-2, 11
8	Job 14:7-9
9	Matthew 28:5-7
10	Colossians 3:1-4
11	Psalms 118:28-29
12	Psalms 71:5-6
13	Psalms 118:14-16
14	Psalms 114:7-8
15	Luke 24:44-48
16	John 1:1-5
17	Acts 4:1-4
18	John 21:4-7a
19	John 21:9-13
20	Psalms 116:1
21	Acts 2:25-28
22	Acts 3:17-19
23	Psalms 16:8-9
24	Psalms 16:11
25	1 John 1:1-4
26	James 2:2-4
27	Hebrews 13:1-2
28	Hebrews 13:20-21
29	1 Peter 2:6-8
30	Psalms 23

Liturgists Needed:

If you are comfortable reading in public and willing to sign up, please let the office know you are willing to serve as liturgist.

Online giving is available through our website. Visit our church website at www.sunrisegreatfalls.net. From there, you will see a *donate* button on the top left side of the home page. This donation button will take you to the Presbyterian Foundation platform allowing you to set up a single-time giving or recurring giving. You can pay through your bank account or by debit or credit card.

Mission Giving: Select “Local Mission” online to donate to OGHS

Donations
If you've already created a profile, please "Log In" on the right, otherwise continue.

Sunrise Presbyterian Church of Great Falls
General Fund

Local Mission

Total:

Donation Frequency

Donation Start Date

Log In

[Forgot your Email Address or Password?](#)

World Water Day Offering Total:

\$105 offering plate donations

\$68.60 online donations

\$173.60 Total Thank you!

April 2023

2023 Session Elders

Class of 2023: Eric Chigbrow, Erica Rusinski, vacant

Class of 2024: Travis Harp, Lee Hickey, Lianna Gaskins

Class of 2025: Norman Anderson, Scott Shull, vacant



Sunrise
Presbyterian
Church

Family

Board of Deacons: Chair - Ember Woods, Secretary/Treasurer - Janette Forsyth

Beth Hoseck, Dixy Paronto, Ruth Hickey, Bill McCullough, Sandy Lambert, Marilyn Andrews, Pam Chigbrow