

The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

Message From the Pastor

April 2020

What Makes this Week Holy?

You may be reading this as we approach the holiest of weeks in the Christian Church. We move through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and the triumph of Easter Resurrection Sunday! This is one way we mark time and tell the story of salvation. And this year, we are doing so huddled in homes or hospitals, separated from community.

Perhaps this is the year to really sit with our salvation story. The crowds were waving palms and welcoming Jesus, shouting "Hosanna!" It is not a fun parade. As Jesus rides on a humble colt, people are crying out "Save us!" It comes from the Hebrew Bible, "Please Lord, please save us. Please, Lord, please give us success." (Psalm 118:25). This cry is more like folks by the road after a car accident, yelling for help. But they also yelled these words from verse 26, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" While the first cry is for deliverance, the second has a tone of thanksgiving. We know that God has saved and will save again. For that, we can be grateful. So, reading these texts in light of a pandemic takes on a new meaning. Perhaps we understand the need for help and the trust expressed in God's help in a new way.



We continue to journey through this Holy Week by gathering in our homes and online using our Fort Hill Presbyterian YouTube Channel. Our children and youth are doing special activities as well. Each day we will share an online Lenten Devotional reflection for you to experience and prompt a conversation.

Holy week leads us deeper and deeper into the trial, betrayal, last supper, and crucifixion of Jesus. So, resurrection also takes on new meaning. Perhaps this year, we will celebrate together a little later. I imagine us emerging from the tombs of our homes, like butterflies from the dark cocoons, journeying out to gather in a graveyard, then running to tell others, "He is risen! He is risen, indeed!" The first women at the tomb were afraid, confused, before they were able to take that good news out to tell others. Maybe this year, slowly walking through Holy Week will help us appreciate God's work in new ways. And like the women, we will return home, "amazed by what we see." And we will rejoice!

That is a promise the whole world needs right now. I expect it will be a most holy week.

Together in Christ,

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor

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Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

101 Edgewood Avenue
Clemson, SC 29631
(864) 654-2061
www.forthillchurch.org

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor
Mary Morrison, AP for Discipleship
Michael Sanchez, AP for Univ. Min.
Katie Wilson, Children's Ministry Coord.
Beth Olker, Interim Youth Coordinator
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.
Becky Bowman, Pianist
Lori Houck, Administrator
Julie Bryant, Admin. Assistant
Scott Thrailkill, Facilities Caretaker

Joining together on a journey of Christian faith, we seek to be Disciples of Christ and to share God's love in our community and around the world.

We do this as we Glorify God, Grow Disciples, Meet Human Needs.

Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

4/5 6th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matt. 27:11-54

4/12 Easter Sunday

Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Matthew 28:1-10

4/19 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

4/26 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

May 2020

The Window Deadline

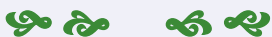
The deadline for articles and announcements for the May issue of *The Window* is **Wednesday, April 15.**

Please email your item as a Word document to the church office at window@forthillchurch.org or type the item directly into your email and send. If possible, please keep your articles to 500 words or less.

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- **Tom Hunter and family** in the death of Sue Hunter on March 15.
- **Dewayne Lawson & Bridget Trogden and family** in the death of Dewayne's mother, Judy Lawson, on March 24, in Knoxville.
- The **McGinty family** in the death of Eleanor McGinty on March 2 in Colfax, NC (former FHPC member).



Congratulations!

Congratulations on the birth of:

- **Evelyn Louise Collie** born to Lauren Ross & Bryan Collie. Proud grandparents are Jere & Rose Ross.
- **Collins Lee Rash** born to James & McKenzie Rash. Proud grandparents are Ron & Ann Rash.

Choir Corner

The first week of April ushers in Holy Week — Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. Personally I like it best when Holy Week starts off the month rather than being in the middle or at the end. I have always regarded this sacred part of our church year as an end and a new beginning.

Palm Sunday is a celebration of Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. It is emotional and glorious to see people walking into church waving palm branches. I remember when I was playing organ at my previous church, my back was to the congregation, and I had a mirror so as to see the aisle and know when all were in the sanctuary. When our children were younger and came in waving the palm branches, I would always have tears of joy in my eyes. It was extremely moving, and I was very thankful that I could play *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* from memory, because I certainly could not see the notes on the page!!

Then we journey with Christ to the garden of Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday and remember his arrest. My memory as a child would be to sing *Go to Dark Gethsemane* which encouraged us to go with Jesus, feel the temptation and conflict as he had and try to learn from him how to pray in that situation. It was hard and sad to do that.

Finally, we learn of his resurrection to new life and proclaim through song that *Jesus Christ is Risen Today!!! Alleluia!!* How glorious and celebratory!

A joyous and Happy Easter!

Smiling-n-Singing,
Margaret



Board of Deacons Update

Members of Fort Hill,

Your Board of Deacons is working to firm up plans for Homebound Communion this year, but as with many planned events, we are dealing with impacts from the coronavirus pandemic.

We recognize both the need for this ministry and the desire to provide it, but under current conditions it is not possible to say when we will be able to offer this sacrament on a scheduled basis, particularly in group settings.

We have planned to offer Homebound Communion this year on the following Sundays: May 3, June 7, August 2, October 4, and November 1. We would serve communion on these days at Clemson Downs and as requested at individual homes. Now, we will consider each of these dates as they get closer and will make a determination as to how to proceed.

In the meantime, if you are aware of a need or request for communion to be served, please contact the church office, Bill Carnes, or Cathy Keaton and we will make arrangements to meet this need.

We continue to pray for the physical and spiritual health of our members, those who are at risk, and those who are ill, and we ask for your prayers as well.

Bill Carnes



From “The Den”

The youth group has gone virtual! We are adjusting to our new normal by meeting over Zoom each Sunday evening. If you are a youth or parent and you are not getting the emails about how to access the Zoom calls, please email me at beth.olker@gmail.com.

Please keep our youth and their parents in your prayers as they learn how to be students and teachers in new ways. We pray especially for our seniors and are constantly looking for ways we can celebrate with them as they end their high school career in a way that none of could imagine.

Blessings and grace to all in these times.

Beth Olker

2020 Confirmation Class: Lessons & Mission

It has been a blessing to have the Fort Hill congregation following along with and praying for our Confirmation Class. As a group spending time and learning together, we are certainly experiencing the fruit of the Spirit. Our March activities seemed to roar like a lion as we focused on the Lamb of God! Each Sunday, a different confirmand-covenant partner team helped with “setting the scene” for our Lenten worship services. In classes, we expanded our conversations from “What do Presbyterians believe?” to “What do other Christians believe?”, bringing it all home to what it means to be a 21st century Christian in Clemson. We talked about mission as “being sent” and we put our words into meaningful call to action as we hosted a drop-in social for our Fort Hill friends at Clemson Downs. To finish out the month, we will enjoy a time of fellowship as the Anderson’s host the confirmands, their families, and their covenant partners for a cookout in their home.

We have been studying Scripture as well as the PCUSA Book of Confessions, which help us experience various statements of faith in a historical and cultural context. Continue to pray for God to give these youth wisdom as we’ll soon be “bringing it all together” in a series of workshops to help each confirmand articulate beliefs and share faith with others, in the form of his/her personal faith statement. There is much for which to be thankful as we reflect upon our time together thus far and the journey continues!

Robin Weeks



Church Mouse

Oh my, it is so quiet around here. I miss the joyful noise of the children and wonderful music coming from the sanctuary. But from what I have heard, it is all because of a VIRUS. So, we need to have something called social distance to be safe. I heard the Session met with something called Zoom. No clue what than means, but no one was in the Lower Club Room.

But before this started, we did much, as usual, here. In February we had PSA Sunday and they did such a great job. Thanks to all who helped: **Allison Horres, Freddy Matney, Samuel Meyer, Kate Mills, Charlotte Neidenbach and Kaitlyn Truesdale** for the music. **Andy Ackerman, Kaitlyn Truesdale, and Chloe Satzger** gave inspiring sermons. Others that participated in the service were: **Tim Wayman, Corey Greene, Scott, Northup, August Brueggermann, Mandy Cost, Roger Harris, Molly James, Emily Madsen, Kayla Bigham, Garren Adamson, and Bridget Wilson.**

In March, the following helped prepare and serve Communion: **Bill & Diane Carnes** and **Robin Denney** were the preparers. Servers were **Annette Halbig, Ann Rash, Greg Bearden, Beth Durham, Mark Kwist, Raymond MacKay, Heidi Martin, Gregg Morton, Linda Parsons, Ronda Ricks, and Tom Shealy.**

Be sure to thank the Deacons who are rotating off after three years of service: **Nina Moede, Cathy Morton, Cathy McInnis, Marlene Nicholas, Laura Shick, Cindy Sloan, Katherine Sosebee, and Heather Wright. Ellen Ackerman, Joan Borick, Paul Durland, Tim Howard, Chuck Moede, Kenny Mohr, Raymond MacKay, Linda Parsons, and Caila Worley** have rotated off the Session having served faithfully as Ruling Elders.

Be safe until next month!



From the Finance Ministry

Through the first two months of 2020, total income was \$204,148 while expenses were \$140,195 providing a surplus of \$63,954. Overall expenses are at 14% of budget while income is at 20.4% of budget. Expenses are slightly below budget while income is above budget. Thank you for your tithes and offerings in support of Fort Hill Church.

Bridging Generations Update:

Loan principal balance: \$302,001.90

Giving Online: Giving online is a convenient way to give to FHPC. To give online, click on the “Give Online” link at the top (or bottom) of the FHPC home page (www.forthillchurch.org). If you use Fort Hill’s website to give there is an opportunity to cover the cost of the online processing fees. As you can see from the screenshot (to the right), select the “Contribute an extra \$\$\$ to help offset processing costs” option. In the example, the choice is to contribute an additional \$27.50 on the donation of \$1,000 (2.75%). Please consider choosing this option when making your donation.

Sign In

How would you like to give?

CREDIT OR DEBIT BANK ACCOUNT

Account Number

Name On Card Expiration Month 03 Expiration Year 2020

Billing Address 1 Billing Address 2

Billing City Billing State Billing Postal Code

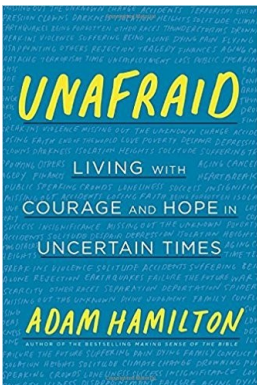
Save for future use.

Contribute an extra \$27.50 to help offset processing costs.

BACK GIVE \$1,027.50

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New Wednesday Morning Bible Study



Be not afraid to engage in Bible study about fear.

A new Wednesday Morning Bible Study begins April 8. The study will be *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* by Adam Hamilton. An excellent study for our present times. Please join us to calm the fears that surround us.

Everyone is welcome to join the study. The Bible Study will run for six weeks on April 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6 & 13 from 10:00—11:30 am.

Books are available through Amazon in hardcover (used around \$8 to new around \$18) or Kindle (\$11.99). **Please order your own book/ebook.**

Mary Morrison, Associate Pastor for Discipleship, will lead the study via Zoom teleconference. Please sign up with Mary at mary.morrison@forthillchurch.org by April 3 to participate. *Please see the Zoom information on the next page.

Fear is a complex emotion. Sometimes it saves us. More often it robs us of the life we want. But we can take our lives back.

You’d be hard-pressed to overstate the extent to which fear, anxiety, and worry permeate our lives today. Fear wreaks havoc on our relationships and communities. It leads us into making bad decisions. It holds us back from the very pursuits that promise fulfillment and joy.

Making matters worse, not a week goes by when some new threat or calamity isn’t dominating the headlines. *Why are their so many tragedies?* we wonder. *What will happen next?*

As the senior pastor of a large, diverse church in America’s heartland, Adam Hamilton has seen the cost of fear up close. When he surveyed his congregation on how fear affects them, 2,400 people responded — and what they said was eye-opening. Eighty percent admitted to living with moderate or significant levels of fear. *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* is Reverend Hamilton’s insightful and impassioned response.

Drawing on recent research, inspiring real-life examples, and fresh biblical insight, Hamilton shows how to untangle the knots we feel about disappointing others, failure, financial insecurity, loneliness, insignificance, and aging. Then he helps readers understand an counter fears related to such outsize perils as terrorism, death, and the apocalypse.

Writing with generosity and intelligence, Hamilton shows how believer and unbeliever alike can develop sustaining spiritual practices and embrace Jesus’s recurring counsel: “Do not be afraid.” For anyone struggling with fear or wondering how families and communities can thrive in troubled times, *Unafraid* offers an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions.

(from Amazon website and book cover)

Zoom Information

To prepare for the meeting, you will need to go to the link (<https://zoom.us/signup>) and sign up. It is free. All you need to do is sign up for the service and you will be able to connect. The Zoom Participant Guide is below. You will receive additional information/instructions from Mary prior to the first Bible Study meeting.



Zoom Video Conferencing

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

The first time you use Zoom you will need to **download and install a small application.**

- For PCs and Macs, you can download and install the [Zoom Client for Meetings](#) from the Zoom website (<https://zoom.us>)
- For tablets and mobile devices, install the **Zoom Cloud Meeting** app from the device's app store.

Most recent laptop and desktop computing devices come with a built-in webcam, speakers, and microphone.

- If your device does not, you will need an external webcam and a headset (earbuds or headphones) plus microphone (may be part of the earbuds)

Tablets and mobile devices should have everything built in but can use a headset (helpful if noise or echo is an issue).

Check/test your audio/video before joining a meeting.

Once the app/client is installed (a one-time process), when you receive a meeting notice, click on the meeting link and be taken directly to the video conference. You can also **join** a meeting by supplying the meeting ID.

For a tutorial, see: [Join a Meeting](#)

- You may have to [configure your audio and video options](#) to get your speakers, microphone, and camera to work properly.
- You may [test your setup](#) here to make sure everything is working
- There are [several meeting controls](#) available during the meeting

A variety of tutorials and guides are at: <https://support.zoom.us/>

News from Presbyterian Women

Fort Hill Presbyterian Women's Spring Birthday Luncheon

Come one and all to the
Annual PW Birthday Luncheon/Celebration
Date to be Announced Later due to recent health restrictions

ALL are invited to this special gathering.

Bring a salad to share, come to fellowship, hear our program, and congratulate the recipient(s) of the 2020 FHPC PW Honorary Life Membership Award!

Program:

Wisdom of the Ages, Fort Hill Stories and Faith Journeys **Celebrating Fort Hill Presbyterian's 125th year!**

Enjoy the reflections of three of our beloved PW Sisters:



Jane Polk



Hazel Sparks



Susan Brown

Be prepared to bring a donation to support this year's charities chosen by Presbyterian Women throughout the denomination, fulfilling our mission to improve the lives of our fellow women, men, and children in need.

Please make checks payable to Fort Hill Presbyterian Women, and please note *Birthday Offering* on the check. For more information go to the following web address below:

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/support-mission/birthday-offering/

Contact: Barbara Madison (barbara.madison@mindspring.com),
Donna Crader (dbcraeder@bellsouth.net),
Jill Foster (jillfoster01@hotmail.com or 639-7495), or
Pam Waddle (pam.waddle@yahoo.com) for more details.

April Paper Goods for Helping Hands

During the month of **April**, Presbyterian Women will be collecting paper goods (paper towels, Kleenex, toilet tissue, etc.) for **Helping Hands of Clemson** — a foster home for children. Please bring your paper goods donations to the small kitchen beside the Club Room once we are able to return to the church facilities.

Clothing Request

All are asked to go through their closets and glean any gently used, seasonally appropriate clothing suitable for wearing to church and school. Your clothing donations for the seminary students and their families should be delivered to the Collection Room downstairs in the "dungeon" to the right of the stairs to Tartan Hall across from the Club Room once we are able to return to the church facilities.

Box Tops for Education

Presbyterian Women, please continue to collect your Box Tops for Education. **The Box Tops will still be collected for Thornwell Home for Children.** The box tops are collected in a basket on the side of the refrigerator in the small kitchen across the hall from the FHOG Office. Each label is worth 10 cents. Thank you for your generosity!

Postponements

Fort Hill Presbyterian Women's Spring Birthday Luncheon and Come See Columbia Day have been postponed due to recent health restrictions. There is one family currently in the Family Promise Program and will stay in one location, a home in Easley. Coordinator, Mary Barron, will let us know if they need meals or support.



April BIRTHDAYS

- 4/1 Joe Dickey
Mandy Hays
Benja Mohr
Laura Ware
- 4/2 Will Gregory III
- 4/3 Jason Hudak
- 4/4 Robert Olker
- 4/5 LeAnne Greene
Kathy Moore
Sherri Smith
- 4/6 Nathan Wilson
- 4/8 Hugh Garner
Miller Gregory
Rees Gregory
Jake McKinney
Sally Mitchell
Carolyn Stroup
- 4/9 Gene Goodwyn
- 4/10 Walker Christenbury
Paul Durland
Benton Halbig
Margaret Ann Rodgers
Pat Street
- 4/11 Dick Shick
Ally Young

- 4/13 Alex Davis
Elizabeth Hawthorne
- 4/14 Chris Bandy
- 4/16 Megan Chavis
Katherine Sosebee
- 4/17 Janet Bean
Jacquie McFall
Hannah Sawyer
- 4/18 Stephanie Aaron
Charles Barron
Michael Steele
- 4/19 Colin Pettigrew
Suzan Simmons
Mark Sublette
- 4/20 John Martin
Diane Sherrick
Karen Ware
- 4/21 Betty Cornwell
Luke Poetz

- 4/21 Karen Sawyer
Carol Walling
- 4/22 Janna McKale
Joanne Trenholm
- 4/23 Erik Fredman
Dave Harvey
- 4/24 Tim Heist
Michael Van Daele
Gensie Waldrop
- 4/25 Lee Allman
Karen Daniels
Beth Gregory
Wade Job
- 4/26 Doug Carlson
Jerry Greene
- 4/27 Norman Weber
- 4/28 Nancy Brown
Janette Hamilton
Hannah Job
Steve Lefevre
- 4/29 Mac Martin
- 4/30 Mary Coronato
Tom Freeman
Helen Steele



April ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/2 Jim & Caroline Thomas
- 4/6 Paul & Joan Borick
- 4/17 Denny & Laurie Sherrod
Dyke & Rhonda Spencer
- 4/18 Rob & Marsha Griffin
John & Amanda Stevenson
- 4/19 Keith & Terri Smith
- 4/21 Colin & Emily Pettigrew
- 4/24 Jay & Tommi Jones
Bill & Tina Mostertz
- 4/27 Blackie & Grace Cook
- 4/29 Jeremy & Heather Wright

Welcome New Members



Lynn & Carol Hipp

Address: 110 N. Waterside Drive
Seneca, SC 29672

Phone: Lynn — 704.634.1479
Carol — 704.578.2199

Email: Lynn — ibeehipp@gmail.com
Carol — chippathome@gmail.com

Lynn volunteers at Habitat for Humanity.
Carol does fundraising for
Collins Children's Home in Seneca and
enjoys knitting, quilting, and Bible study

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