

SAINT PETER'S IN-THE-MOUNTAINS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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ROCK CHURCH NEWS

Volume 170 April 2023
Sunday Service 10:00 am
Church School 11:15 am



"To embody Christ's teaching in appropriate ways for serving the community, the nation, and the world."

NEWS & NOTES

Sunday April 2 is Palm Sunday and The Passion. You are invited to join us at the Phoebe Needles Center at 10 a.m. as we begin our worship service with the Liturgy of the Palms, and parade up the hill to the church. You are also welcome to wait in the church if you would like to pass on the hike up the hill. In place of the regular Gospel reading, we will read the Passion Narrative, this year from the Gospel of Matthew. Anyone willing to read a part in the Passion Narrative should contact John Heck.



Thursday April 6 is Maundy Thursday. We will begin with a simple supper, followed by the Maundy Thursday Liturgy (foot washing, Celebration of the Last Supper (Holy Eucharist), and Stripping of the Altar). Please bring simple foods (soup, bread, cheese, fruit) to share for the meal.

Friday April 7 is Good Friday service is at 7 p.m. The Phoebe Needles Center has a beautiful Stations of the Cross walk and meditation area in the woods behind the Community Center building. You are invited to come anytime (but particularly between now and Easter) to enjoy this sacred space.

The Callaway Community Churches Easter Sunrise service (4/9) will be at the Callaway Community Cemetery at 6:30 a.m. The Rev. Andy Duffy from Antioch Church of the Brethren will be the preacher. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held at Highland UMC. Highland will host a continental breakfast following the service.

Easter Service at Saint Peter's (4/9) will be at 10 a.m. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for Outreach for the children 0 to 5, and 6 to 10 years old following the service. Parents are asked to bring an Easter basket with candy-filled eggs for their children that can be hidden by the teens following the service.

The Phoebe Needles Center, Inc. Silent Auction is LIVE!! Check out the website between now and April 22nd. There are more than 100 different goods and services available - more are being added as we receive them. You can help the children and youth campers we serve in a big way by bidding on one or more items. It's easy to do, just follow the instructions on the website: www.32auctions.com/PNCsummerCamp2023

Ferrum Forward is the community action group founded in 2019 to promote the village plan developed by the county and its consultants and to generate new ideas for the area. FF considers Phoebe and St. Peter's to be part of that community. A new web site is coming soon, here's the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/823612815197752>



NEWS, NOTES & FACES



Nita Smoot brought guests Wilma Lamm Messenger and Jeni Lamm Weber to St. Peter's on March 19. Wilma played flute, alto recorder and sang. Her sister, Jeni sang with her. Wilma holds a Masters in Divinity and a BS in Music Education. Jeni graduated from UNC Chapel Hill in drama. I'll try to find out her specific degree if you need it. Wilma is a retired Music educator and lives with her husband, Troy, outside of NYC. Jeni lives in Knoxville, TN and is active in the theater company which she and her husband, Terry, developed and continue to manage.

St. Peter's-in-the-Mountains Episcopal Church

Sunday Morning Service, March 19, 2023

Photos by Bob Pohlad



Pictured L-R: Wilma Lamm Messenger, Jeni Lamm Weber and Nita Smoot

More News & Notes

Spring Gathering @ Phoebe Needles

The Spring Gathering is scheduled for April 22nd from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Compton's are playing from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be music after lunch as well!! We are serving pulled pork with all the sides at no charge (lunch begins at 12:30 p.m.). Please invite your friends and neighbors – there is no charge.

Endowment Fund "Keeping the Rock Church Solid"

The Saint Peter's Endowment Fund receives donations every month; memorials to loved ones, from Birthday Sunday, and other donations. The Fund is growing! Our thanks to all who have contributed.

Keeping Up with Our Commitment

Please remember that Saint Peter's depends on your pledge. If you have forgotten the amount of your pledge for 2023, please contact Andy Buckman at: apbuckman@gmail.com. If you are mailing your check to the church, please send it to: Saint Peter's, 65 Rock Ridge Road; Callaway, VA 24067

The Phoebe Needles Mountain Band will be playing for the April 11th Center for Lifelong Learning program at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch. The cost is \$12 for members and \$20 for guests. Please call the Office to make a reservation: 540-483-1518.

Outreach Update

During the first quarter of 2023, our local outreach focused on Stepping Stone Mission in Rocky Mount. The Mission serves a hot meal daily, 365 days a year. Thank you to the many individuals who donated much needed paper supplies. These have been delivered and are greatly appreciated. In addition our youth volunteered several hours on a Saturday morning and a \$750 donation was made from our outreach budget. In addition, a contribution of \$742 was made to Episcopal Relief and Development specifically for earthquake relief. The amount was made up of individual contributions plus funds from St. Peter's outreach budget.

Phoebe Needles Center, Inc will be our outreach focus for April-June. Monetary donations will be collected at St. Peter's to be used to fund camp scholarships. There will be multiple opportunities across the quarter to contribute to hands-on projects of all skill levels for individuals, families and groups. Examples of needs at the Center: Weeding and landscaping, trail maintenance, small paint jobs, staining decks, porch repair, washing the PNC Bus and some more complex building repair. Specific projects, dates and help needed will be communicated throughout the quarter. Day camp programs are in need of craft and project supplies. A collection list will be available at the church.

I have several hobbies that keep me occupied and happy in my retirement, two of which are gardening and reading. This week, I have been reading more than gardening (having to keep myself from planting too much this early!), and I reached for a bookmark today that had some sweet wisdom printed on it about "gardening" which I would like to share.

For the Garden of your Daily Living:

Plant Three Rows of Peas: Peas of Mind, Peas of Heart, Peas of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash: Squash Gossip, Squash Indifference, Squash Grumbling, Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce: Lettuce be Thankful, Lettuce be Kind, Lettuce Love One Another

No Garden is Without Turnips: Turnip for Meetings, Turnip for Service, Turnip to Help One Another

To conclude our garden, we must have Thyme: Thyme for Each Other, Thyme for Family, Thyme for Friends

Water freely with Patience and Cultivate with Love.

There is much fruit in your garden because your Reap what you Sow!

This is a little "cheesy," but I love it nevertheless!! Hope you enjoy reading it, and Happy Gardening!

Fair Robey



April 2023

SERVICE CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u> (details in LINK)	<u>LINK</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Altar</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
April 2	Palm Sunday	LINK	Pat	Sharon	Zoe
April 9	Easter Sunday	LINK	Newc	Danene	Sammi
April 16	Second Sunday of Easter	LINK	Bob	Lisa	Matthew
April 23	Third Sunday of Easter	LINK	Rob	Maureen	Lucas
April 30	Fourth Sunday of Easter	LINK	David S.	Pat	Grace
May 7	Fifth Sunday of Easter	LINK	Katherine	Kelley	Zoe

April Birthdays

- 8 Andy Buckman
- 13 Benton Heck
Bob Pohlad
- 15 Rob Crow
- 29 Sam Campbell
- 30 Stephanie Pendleton

April Anniversaries

- 23 Juanita & Danny Custer (2017)
- 26 Delia & John Heck (1998)



Benton Heck, pictured here having Jaxon explain how to tie a bowtie, has a birthday in April.



April 13 marks another year wiser for grandpa Bob Pohlad.



Juanita & Danny Custer celebrate their sixth anniversary on April 23.



John and Delia Heck celebrate their 25th anniversary in April.

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LITURGICAL NOTES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday is a Christian moveable feast which always falls on the Sunday before Easter Sunday. The feast commemorates an event mentioned by all four Canonical Gospels Mark 11:1-11, Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19: the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in the days before his Passion. It is also called Passion Sunday or Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion.

In many Christian churches, Palm Sunday is marked by the distribution of palm leaves (often tied into crosses) to the assembled worshippers.

According to the Gospels, before entering Jerusalem, Jesus was staying at Bethany and Bethphage, and the Gospel of John adds that he had dinner with Lazarus, and his sisters Mary and Martha. While there, Jesus sent two disciples to the village over against them, in order to retrieve a donkey that had been tied up but never been ridden, and to say, if questioned, that the donkey was needed by the Lord but would be returned. Jesus then rode the donkey into Jerusalem, with the Synoptics adding that the disciples had first put their cloaks on it, so as to make it more comfortable. The Gospels go on to recount how Jesus rode into Jerusalem, and how the people there lay down their cloaks in front of him, and also lay down small branches of trees. The people sang part of Psalm 118 - ...Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father, David. ... (Psalms 118:25-26). Where this entry is supposed to have taken place is unspecified; some scholars argue that the Golden Gate is the likely location, since that was where it was believed the Jewish messiah would enter Jerusalem; other scholars think that an entrance to the south, which had stairs leading directly to the Temple, would be more likely.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

In the Christian calendar, Holy Thursday or Maundy Thursday is the feast or holy day on the Thursday before Easter that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. It is preceded by Holy Wednesday and followed by Good Friday.

On this day four events are commemorated: the washing of the Disciples' feet by Jesus Christ, the institution of the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, the agony of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, the betrayal of Christ by Judas Iscariot.

The morning celebration of these events marks the beginning of what is called the Easter Triduum or Sacred Triduum. The Latin word triduum means a three-day period, and the triduum in question is that of the three days from the death to the resurrection of Jesus. It should be noted that for Jesus and his followers a day ended, and a new day began, at sunset, not at midnight, as it still does today in the modern Jewish calendar.[1] The Last Supper was held at what present day Western civilization considers to be the evening of Holy Thursday but what was then considered to be the first hours of Friday. Its annual

commemoration thus begins the three-day period or triduum of Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, days of special devotion that celebrate as a single action the death and resurrection of Christ, the central events of Christianity.

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday, also called Holy Friday or Great Friday, is the Friday before Easter (Easter always falls on a Sunday). It commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus at Calvary.

Conflicting testimony against Jesus is brought forth by many witnesses, to which Jesus answers nothing. Finally the high priest adjures Jesus to respond under solemn oath, saying "I adjure you, by the Living God, to tell us, are you the Anointed One, the Son of God?" Jesus testifies in the affirmative, "You have said it, and in time you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Almighty, coming on the clouds of Heaven." The high priest condemns Jesus for blasphemy, and the Sanhedrin concurs with a sentence of death (Matthew 26:57-66).

In the morning the whole assembly brings Jesus to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, under charges of subverting the nation, opposing taxes to Caesar, and making himself a king (Luke 23:1-2). The crowd cursed Pilate for not condemning Jesus to be killed. He authorizes the Jewish leaders to judge Jesus according to their own Law and execute sentencing, however the Jewish leaders reply that they are not allowed by the Romans to carry out a sentence of death (John 18:31). Pilate questions Jesus, and tells the assembly that there is no basis for sentencing. Upon learning that Jesus is from Galilee, Pilate refers the case to the ruler of Galilee, King Herod, who was in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. Herod questions Jesus but receives no answer; Herod sends Jesus back to Pilate. Pilate tells the assembly that neither he nor Herod have found guilt in Jesus; Pilate resolves to have Jesus whipped and released (Luke 23:3-16).

It was a custom during the feast of Passover for the Romans to release one prisoner as requested by the Jews. Pilate asks the crowd who they would like to be released. Under the guidance of the chief priests, the crowd asks for Barabbas, who had been imprisoned for committing murder during an insurrection. Pilate asks what they would have him do with Jesus, and they demand, "Crucify him" (Mark 15:6-14). Pilate's wife had seen Jesus in a dream earlier that day; she forewarns Pilate to "have nothing to do with this righteous man" (Matthew 27:19).

Pilate has Jesus flogged, then brings him out to the crowd to release him. The chief priests inform Pilate of a new charge, demanding Jesus be sentenced to death "because he claimed to be God's son." This possibility filled Pilate with fear, and he brought Jesus back inside the palace and demanded to know from where he came (John 19:1-9).

Coming before the crowd one last time, Pilate declared Jesus innocent and washed his own hands in water to show he has no part in this condemnation. Nevertheless, Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified in order to forestall a riot and ultimately to

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keep his job. The sentence written was “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” Jesus carried his cross to the site of execution (assisted by Simon of Cyrene), called the place of the Skull, or “Golgotha” in Hebrew and in Latin “Calvary”. There he was crucified along with two criminals.

Jesus agonized on the cross for six hours. During his last 3 hours on the cross, from noon to 3 pm, darkness fell over the whole land. With a loud cry, Jesus gave up his spirit. There was an earthquake, tombs broke open, and the curtain in the Temple was torn from top to bottom. The centurion on guard at the site of crucifixion declared, “Truly this was God’s Son!” Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin and secret follower of Jesus, who had not consented to his condemnation, goes to Pilate to request the body of Jesus. Another secret follower of Jesus and member of the Sanhedrin named Nicodemus brought about a hundred pound weight mixture of spices and helped wrap the body of Christ. Pilate asks confirmation from the centurion whether Jesus is dead. A soldier pierced the side of Jesus with a lance causing blood and water to flow out, and the centurion informs Pilate that Jesus is dead.

Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus’ body, wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and placed it in his own new tomb that had been carved in the rock in a garden near the site of crucifixion. Nicodemus also brought 75 pounds of myrrh and aloes, and placed them in the linen with the body, in keeping with Jewish burial customs. They rolled a large rock over the entrance of the tomb. Then they returned home and rested, because Shabbat had begun at sunset.

The Stations of the Cross service marks the final events of Jesus’s life from the moment he is betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane until his body is laid in the tomb.

EASTER

Easter (Greek: Πάσχα Paskha, from Hebrew: פֶּסַח Pesakh,) is the most important annual religious feast in the Christian liturgical year. According to Christian scripture, Jesus was resurrected from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion. Some Christians celebrate this resurrection on Easter Day or Easter Sunday (also Resurrection Day or Resurrection Sunday), two days after Good Friday and three days after Maundy Thursday. The chronology of his death and resurrection is variously interpreted to be between AD 26 and AD 36. Easter also refers to the season of the church year called Eastertide or the Easter Season. Traditionally the Easter Season lasted for the forty days from Easter Day until Ascension Day but now officially lasts for the fifty days until Pentecost. The first week of the Easter Season is known as Easter Week or the Octave of Easter. Easter also marks the end of Lent, a season of fasting, prayer, and penance.

Easter is a moveable feast, meaning it is not fixed in relation to the civil calendar. The First Council of Nicaea (325) established the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the full moon (the Paschal Full Moon) following the vernal equinox. Ecclesiastically, the equinox is reckoned to be on March 21 (regardless of the astronomically correct date), and the “Full Moon” is not necessarily the astronomically correct date. The date of Easter therefore varies between March 22 and April 25. Eastern Christianity bases its calculations on the Julian Calendar whose March 21 corresponds, during the twenty-first century, to April 3 in the Gregorian Calendar, in which calendar their celebration of Easter therefore varies between April 4 and May 8.

Easter is linked to the Jewish Passover not only for much of its symbolism but also for its position in the calendar. In most European languages the feast called Easter in English is termed by the words for passover in those languages and in the older English versions of the Bible the term Easter was the term used to translate passover.

Relatively newer elements such as the Easter Bunny and Easter egg hunts have become part of the holiday’s modern celebrations, and those aspects are often celebrated by many Christians and non-Christians alike. There are also some Christian denominations who do not celebrate Easter.



SAINT PETER’S PRAYER & CARE TEAM

We include in the Prayers of the People each Sunday the names of those in need of prayer that you have made known to the church. As a way of keeping those names before us in prayer, those on the Prayer & Care Team also offer daily prayers, and send cards. You are invited to join this group of people who are willing to commit to praying for each person on our prayer list on a daily basis. If you are interested in joining the Prayer & Care Team, or would like more information, please contact Juanita Custer (hodges_juanita@yahoo.com) or call 540-588-3655.

PRAYER LIST – April 2023

Melvin Clark	Steve Swinehart
Mark Akerman	Carol Ann Wade
Fred Sloan	Helen Puckett
Jen Saleeba	Kelley Beyer
Karen Moretz	Linda Sigmon
Donnie Fralin	Debra Connolly
Joe Krawzel	Rob & Margie Wiltshire
Larry Sigmon	Tony Mabe
Brent Younts	Larissa Feazell
Matt Hubbard	Cindy Swinehart
Tom Newcombe	Kitten Guilliams
Justin Huff	Nancy Bradley
Gene Herrick	Helen Campbell
Carol Osborne	Dana Ellis
Sara Bier	Michael Riley
Jaxon Akerman	Sam Campbell
Donna LaDue	Jamie Stanley
Ken Cullen	Linda Green
Ed Bowman	Sandy Grice
Anne Fetner	Glenda Pendleton

We pray for the soul of Donnie Fralin, uncle of Danene Bernard, who died this week, and for his family and friends who grieve. May his soul and the soul of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace and rise in glory.

We pray for the birth of Cambria Grace Hubbard, granddaughter of Charlotte and Keith Hubbard. May she grow in God's grace and love day by day.

We pray for the people in Mississippi who lost their lives, and for those who lost loved ones, homes, all their possessions. We pray for these as they begin to rebuild their lives.

We pray for John our priest, Mark our Bishop, and Michael our Presiding Bishop. May their ministries be guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

We pray also for all those who were killed this week as a result of war and terrorism, and for families whose lives are being torn apart. Almighty God whose will it is to hold both heaven and earth in the peace of your kingdom: Give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts.



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