



# FUPC Presby Press

## [ April 2022 ]

### *Recalling the “most profound week” of human history”*

## Holy Week & Easter at Edinboro Presbyterian

The eight days from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday recall the most profound week of all of human history. Three decades after he was born in Bethlehem, Jesus the Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem, was the subject of a palm-laden victory parade, overturned tables in the temple, gave his followers the culmination of his three years of teachings, and headed toward his death. Jesus was betrayed, arrested, tried, and sentenced to crucifixion. The following Sunday morning, he was no longer held in the makeshift tomb. He met with men and women who had had their hopes dashed. The resurrected Messiah was alive again.

The emotions and impact of these eight days are intense. This is why Holy Week and Easter are such crucial highlights of the church year – and of the worship life of Christian congregations. We hope you will participate in our commemoration of these pivotal events in Jesus’ life and in our faith. Here is what has been planned for the upcoming two weekends, plus the roller coaster ride of faith in the intervening week.

### **Palm Sunday** [April 10 this year]

**Sanctuary worship** on Palm Sunday will launch the week with the story of Jesus being escorted in to the city by a group of exited and hopeful followers. Those in attendance will be given a palm frond to carry during the worship hour and take home to inspire and inform your personal prayers and meditations.

A parallel version of **Worship Online** will also be found on our website for Palm Sunday.



### **Holy Week** [April 11-16]

Each day of Holy Week brings opportunities for spiritual reflection about these crucial events in the Jesus story. These reflections can be individual or with people in your household. The FUPC Holy Week Devotional Guide (distributed with this newsletter) offers suggested Scripture readings, websites, videos, music and hands-on activities for the days which mark Jesus’ week in Jerusalem.

### **“Mandate” Thursday** [April 14]

Maundy Thursday takes its name from the Latin word for “mandate” or “command”. It is celebrated with a focus on Jesus’ last supper with his disciples. There, he gave them the mandate to “love one another as I have loved you.” Pastor Greg will lead our **sanctuary worship** begins at 7:00 that evening, and it will include the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. It is a simple, somber and meaningful worship.

### **Good Friday** [April 15]

Good Friday commemorates the day when Jesus was nailed to a cross to open the door to salvation for all people who receive the gift of grace. This congregation will not have a gathered worship service, but there will be a **video version** to help you ponder Christ’s passion on our behalf. You can find it on [www.EdinboroPresby.org/videos](http://www.EdinboroPresby.org/videos).

## Easter Sunday [April 17]

The Resurrection Festival is a high point of the Christian Year. Its significance has been understood across cultures and centuries, so much so that this Jesus-centered “High Holy Day” still influences much of our secular society.

Come enjoy the joy that comes to us at Easter. Morning worship will begin in the sanctuary at 11:00. The celebration of Christ’s resurrection continues with an Easter-themed **Worship Online**, for those who cannot attend gathered worship due to school-holiday travel or personal circumstances, as well as for all who do attend in the sanctuary on Sunday morning. (The video version will be different than the sanctuary service, so you can do both.)

## Easter lilies bring in-house beauty and for mission/care outreach

The FUPC sanctuary will be beautified with donated Easter lilies on April 17. Thank you to all who contributed to this annual tradition.

Thanks to a new initiative of our Deacons and our Local Mission Team, we also will be looking outward and tangibly sharing the Good News of Jesus this Easter weekend. Additional lilies have been ordered, and volunteers will deliver those to some of our honored members and people in the community.

A list of all the donors and their dedications will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin and in our Prayer/Calendar which goes separately to members and friends of this congregation.

### From the Pastor

## Stirring visuals retell the soul-stirring, life-changing story

Holy Week and Easter are upon us! In some ways, I find myself a bit surprised to find these profound Christian holidays already here. (Wasn’t it *just* New Year’s Day?!?!) This, even though Easter 2022 is actually toward the late end of the range when Easter can fall from year to year.

The “surprise” factor is actually a huge part of Jesus’ resurrection story. We who live after Jesus’ resurrection know that Easter will happen annually. There are Easter dresses to buy, eggs to hunt, Peeps and jelly beans to nibble. Our sanctuary candelabra has visually shown us the countdown to Easter each Sunday in Lent.

In Bible times though, and before then, God’s people were uncertain of the timing of the Messiah’s victory. There was no guarantee there even would be a victory. Many weren’t even sure there would be a Messiah! The Lord’s interactions with his friends on that first Easter Day had no trumpets and rousing hymns, no eager anticipation, no confidence that God could or would make all things well.

Throughout my adult years, one of the best ways to enter the Jesus story – so intense and so profound, and so *life-changing* – has been to watch Franco Zeffirelli’s epic six-hour movie “Jesus of Nazareth”. The all-star cast, from Hollywood and around the world, brings life and pathos and believability to the people who were the first generation to know Jesus and his grace.

If you choose to watch the full 6+ hours, you can find it on a number of cable networks and TV streaming services. If you want to hone in on that incredible week in Jerusalem, shorter segments of this excellent film can be found online. I will post a suggested Holy Week viewing schedule on our church website with links to those video scenes. Don’t feel bound by the schedule, but if you are anything like me, you will find yourself wrapped up in Jesus and his glory, in Jesus and his love.

Wishing you Peace, Anticipating Easter Joy,



# Give to our Easter Offering this month, and you will transform hurting lives

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of four denominational mission offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This Easter offering involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Support of One Great Hour, in local churches across multiple denominations, cares for people in need and communities in crisis. These ministries are immediate – right after a flood or tornado, in the midst of a war or a shooting. The gifts you give also stay at work for the long term – in holistic development programs, health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and community empowerment.

Your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for immediate relief, the months and years of recovery and rebuilding, and very practical ways through which the people of God accompany some of the most vulnerable people during the rockiest portions of their life journeys.. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that created those needs.

Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, the FUPC Easter offering, can be made by mail or in-person. Checks can be payable to **FUPC**. Mark the check or the envelope “OGHS” or “Easter” and your charity will be put to work around the world and in the U.S. throughout the year ahead. Please be generous. You will be resolving these real human needs and demonstrating special God’s love for people who are hungry, scared or hurting.

## Next steps after our Discernment Retreat

### Seeking God’s guidance, for our present and our future

Congregation members and leaders met for a vibrant series of conversations on a Saturday morning in March. The goal of this discernment retreat was to take insights from recent conversations about “how God wants us to move beyond the limitations of the Covid Era.” These past two years have been challenging, but this period has also taught us flexibility and shown us new options, current opportunities, and the value of reclaiming the meaningful aspects of our history.

The conversations will continue but there were three primary goals identified by those who invested nearly four hours in that day’s process. The overarching immediate need was to pray as a congregation – and as individuals – for wisdom, guidance, confidence and boldness. Our ministries and ministry teams are encouraged to shape our decisions in three directions: **Prayer** asking that we will be lead in the Lord’s preferred direction(s), **Inward** connection with the people of this church, and **Outward** focus to carry our influence and service beyond our own people and outside our own walls.

To get us started (restarted?), here is a recommended schedule for prayer emphases this month and next:

**Mondays:** Our prayer lives will be strengthened and deepened.

**Thursdays:** That our prayers include listening

**Tuesdays:** For church friends who we haven’t seen in a while.

**Fridays:** For FUPC’s leaders and do-ers

**Wednesdays:** Our activities will be more magnetic to others

**Saturdays:** For needs in our local community

# Help us celebrate our 2022 high school and college grads

It won't be long until the Class of 2022 receive their diplomas and celebrate the accomplishments they have had in the educational and social lives. Even with the "social distancing" aspects of their lives during these strange times. We celebrate your tenacity, discoveries and personal growth.



In May we would like to recognize our upcoming college and high school graduates. If you or someone in your household will be graduating this year, please contact the church office this week. We want to hear about your graduation dates, favorite memories, honors and future plans. We will include this in published form, in a website video (password-protected to be seen only within this congregation) and at an upcoming Sunday worship service. Also, please let us know whether **May 1** or **May 22** works into your schedule for a time of recognition at sanctuary worship. (If either can be OK, say so, so that we might be able to work out a better consensus for everyone involved. If neither of those dates work, we can arrange another occasion when you can be honored for your successes.)

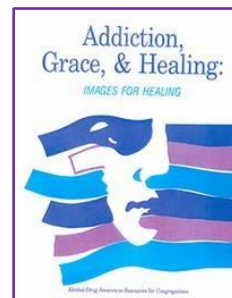
While you are thinking about it now, call 814-734-3511, email [office@EdinboroPresby.org](mailto:office@EdinboroPresby.org), or text 814-271-4027. If you are willing, please send a photo (formal or casual) that we can share with the congregation too. We ask our graduating students to also share with the church office your preferred email or social media contact, so that we can connect with you directly in the future.

"People look to faith leaders and to the church to speak most often when they themselves are at a loss for words. Whether it is in the face of deep personal loss or in the aftermath of a global event or disaster, [we] have the unique responsibility to acknowledge the pain of our hearts and the suffering in this world. In doing this, publicly acknowledging the frailty of the human condition, I believe there is an invitation to gather in community, where our presence is often more powerful than our words. We make the journey together towards our collective healing through the power of God's tender love and abiding presence.

~ REV. KATHY LEE-CORNELL  
Grace Presbytery, Texas  
writing in Austin Seminary's *Just the Right Word*

## Narcotics Anonymous: Saturday evenings at FUPC

FUPC has a long-standing ministry of hosting a local Narcotics Anonymous group. In 2022 the NA group moved to Saturday evenings, and attendance has increased. If you know someone who could benefit NA or other life-changing programs, encourage them to reach out to someone – their pastor, a counselor, a friend, the 800-662-HELP service or the United Way 211 hotline (just dial the three digits 2-1-1). A video message is on our website [here](#).



The Presbyterian Health Network, in conjunction with two partnering denominations, commends a booklet "Addiction, Grace & Healing" with helpful drug and alcohol awareness information. You may read or download this booklet from [this link](#) or ask for a printed copy through the Edinboro Presbyterian office.

*Presby Press* is the monthly newsletter for our members, friends, and the community at-large.

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