

MILLS RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 30 Issue 4

APRIL 2023

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK – Reverend Megan McMillan

Friends,

We are fast approaching the Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection. I hope you have been journeying through the season of Lent with us with practices of fasting, reflecting and praying. It is now time to embrace the promise and hope of Easter! The events of Holy Week offer an opportunity for us to mark our journey of faith, contemplating each year, as well as the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is also a time for us to reflect on the mystery of how God continues to work in the world today and in our own daily lives. At Easter, we remember that just as Jesus lives, so you and I are called to live. We are to live lives that are marked by love, grace, forgiveness, wonder and beauty. We are called to be an Easter people! Not just during Holy Week but every day of the year.

It is my hope that you will look for new ways to learn, grow, and experience the richness of God's abundant blessings. I also encourage you to invite friends, family, and neighbors to share this time and journey with you to Easter. Join us in celebration of Holy Week at Mills River Presbyterian Church! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

Palm Sunday: April 2 @ 11am, Worship with Palms Processional

Maundy Thursday: April 6 @ 6pm, Worship with Dinner and Foot Washing

Good Friday: April 7 @ 7pm, Tenebrae Worship

Easter Sunday: April 9, Sunrise Service @ 7am, Breakfast @ 8am, Traditional Worship @ 11am, Easter Egg Hunt following worship

Blessings,

Pastor Megan

CLERK OF SESSION – Steve Tody

The Session received new member Ben Brown in March. Please greet and welcome Ben when you have the opportunity.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Steve Tody, interim

Buildings and Grounds maintains the Church landscape and buildings.

- The session has approved replacing the old keys and locks on all church and fellowship hall entry/exit doors. The system has a master key and sub-masters defined by location and use of a particular door with secure control and accountability of keys. Planning is in progress.
- An infestation of ants in the women's restroom in the Fellowship Hall was discovered and eradicated by Terminix.
- The furnace filters in the Fellowship Hall were replaced.
- The men of the Church will again put on their traditional Easter Sunday morning breakfast immediately following the Easter Sunrise service at about 8 am. For this breakfast, we will be back to pre-COVID as we were for the March potluck lunch. Please bring your appetites. All men are considered to be the "Men of the Church" and are invited to participate in the preparation, cooking and serving of this meal. Please let Steve Tody or Noland Ramsey know if you will there to help out.
- Calling all persons interested in joining the B&G and/or Cemetery committees. All interested persons are welcome. If interested, please contact Steve Tody at 803-315-0016, tody1975@att.net or come talk to me after worship on Sunday.

As always, thank you everyone for helping keep our Church looking great! An inviting and well cared for Church contributes greatly to attracting new members.

BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP – Steve Tody

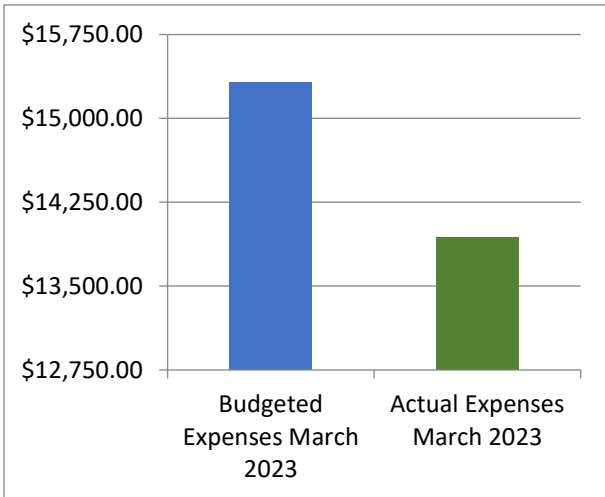
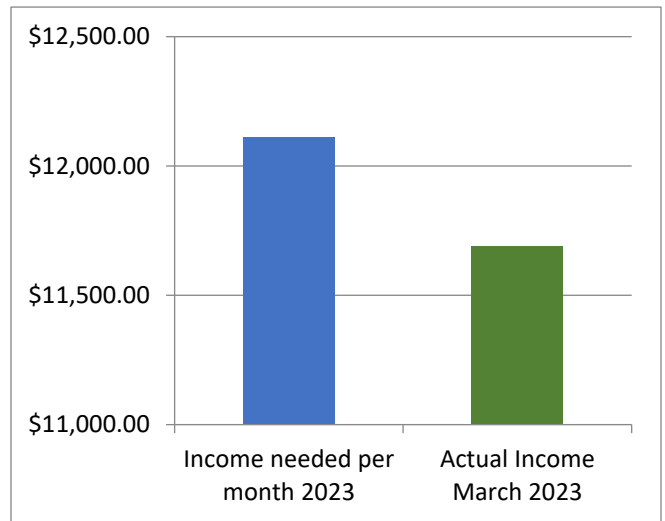
Stewardship

Thanks to everyone who pledged support for MRPC in our recent stewardship drive. If you have not yet submitted an Estimate of Giving card for 2023, please do so. Your Session needs this information to manage our budget as we go through the year. As of now, pledged offerings for operating expenses are less than projected expenses for the year. Operating expenses for 2023 consist largely of the costs of supporting our church staff and maintenance and utility expenses for our church facilities, so diligent planning is essential for us to have the needed funds available.

Offerings to the Operating Budget

Offerings to the budget in March were \$11,691 vs. \$12,110 needed to meet the monthly budget for offerings. Please note that this amount is needed to provide \$150,314 in operating income for the year. However, they are not sufficient alone to fund the \$186,028 in approved budgeted operating expenses.

Offerings in March, \$



Operating Expenses vs. Budget

Operating expenses in March were \$13,935, as compared to \$15,318 budgeted for March in the 2023 Operating Budget. Budgeted expenses vary from month to month.

BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP (cont'd.)

Restricted Giving

Restricted giving includes all designated offerings, such as 5-Cents-a-Meal and Guatemala Scholarships. Many of these offerings receive special emphasis at various times of the year and are very important to our Missions program. Designated offerings can only be used for their specific purpose and cannot be used to support our regular operating budget. For comparison purposes, restricted giving for MRPC in 2022 was over \$20,000, not including many donations in kind, such as backpack supplies and cookies for the Cookie Walk.

Offerings Options

Offerings may be made in person during worship, left in the mail slot at the church office, or mailed to the church. They also may be made online through the church website www.millsriverpresbyterian.org. From the top menu on the webpage, just choose Contact and then Giving.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Jeannie Hardin

Our Lenten study will **continue through April 4th**. *Lectio Divina* will resume **on Monday morning, April 10th**.

Sunday, April 9th (Easter Sunday) we will have an **Easter egg hunt following 11 am worship service**. It will begin by the CE building and will cover the front lawn area. Children should bring their own baskets. On April 23rd we will have a special worship service with our children serving as liturgist, usher, etc. We look forward to this special occasion to recognize and support our children as active members of our church.

The next **Church Chat** will be **Tuesday, May 2nd at 7 pm**; it will be presented by Rich Shader; his topic is ancestry and will be very informative for all.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE – Mary Ellen Pacocha

Thank you to all of the ladies who helped in cleaning out the kitchen, washing the windows in the Fellowship Hall, and so much more. We were pleased to make donations of what we do not need or use anymore.

Please remember that your dishes and any leftovers from any of the social events at church need to be taken home. Thank you in advance!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE (cont'd.)

Sunday, April 2nd Congregational Care is asking the congregation to come and celebrate Laurie Auten's life in serving the Lord with a service at 2 pm and a reception afterward. Please bring finger foods (crackers, cheese, nuts, dips with chips, cookies); beverages will be provided. There will be no Fellowship Hour after regular worship service that day.

On Maundy Thursday April 6th the Church will be hosting a light supper at 6 pm with a Worship Service to follow. A sign-up sheet has been put on the bulletin board in the Narthex for your convience to sign up to bring either Soup, Salad, or Bread.

In March, the following prayers were requested:

Cody Crawford and Family – Comfort for **Cody and his family** with the passing of his grandmother.

The Auten and Shope Families - in the loss of Laurie Auten; for **Jackie** and her family and for **Erin, Chris and Silas**. Your church family prays to comfort you, for your faith to uphold you, and for loving memories to heal your heavy hearts.

Estelle Whiteside - For her son, **Church Murdock**, who has been undergoing tests.

James and Jeanne Gordon - James was admitted to Pardee with a fungal lung infection. Prayers for controlling the infection and for excellent future health.

Judi and Leo Gawor - Their son **Nathan**, who resides in Montana, has been undergoing difficult mental testing. Prayers for answers and solutions.

Wayne O'Neal - Wayne's stepfather **Willie Sanderlin** passed away. Prayers are needed for the O'Neal family in giving them strength and comfort during this very sad time.

Shirley Liston - For her sister's friend **Wanda**, who is experiencing complications after having surgery (blood clot in her leg) and is hospitalized.

Jere and Joanne Brittain -Their daughter-in-law **Sherri Eakes** is very ill and is in need of constant care. Prayers for strength and comfort.

Bob and Judy Andersen - Bob recently had intestinal surgery and is now at home and recovering well. Prayers for a complete recovery.

GROWTH & COMMUNICATIONS – Jackie Auten

We have signed up to have a tent at **Mills River Day, Saturday May 6th**. This event is located at North River Farm on North Mills River Rd. This is a great way to let people know who our church is, please make plans to attend. Please contact Jackie Auten to volunteer for this event: 828-891-5354 or jackieauten48@gmail.com.

MISSION – Beth Lindsey

There will be upcoming announcements for Mission events in the bulletin or during worship services.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – Jean Tody

Dates to Remember:

April 1st - PW Birthday Luncheon, Noon in the Fellowship Hall; The speaker will be from the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville. Art supplies are being collected to help with their summer program. Contact Lois Sneed for more information.

April 3rd - PW Council will meet at 1 pm in the Conference Room.

April 11th - Esther Bible Study (Lois Sneed – leader) 10 am in the conference Room

April 13th - Ruth Bible Study (Shirley Liston – leader) 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall

April 18th - Book Group (Doris Fowler - leader) will meet in the Conference Room at 6 pm

Secrets of War by Terrel Garrin is the book for April. It is the story of Joseph Youngblood and Delia Russell of Hoopers Creek in Henderson County, North Carolina. It “captures what the Civil War was like in the mountains and throughout the south.”

Transformation Village:

April 21st – Team 2 will be cooking and serving lunch.

Spring Gathering:

Presbyterian Women of Western North Carolina

Saturday, April 22, 2023, 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon

First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, North Carolina

Featuring Rev. Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Registration deadline: April 7, 2023

WORSHIP – Lynn McElroy

March was a busy month, being mindful of our Lenten season by wearing purple and celebrating the Lord's supper each Sunday. We also began voting for our favorite hymns in the first *March Hymn Madness* brackets. The winner of the votes will be announced the Sunday after Easter. Remember to vote for your favorite hymn using the boxes in the fellowship hall; we are down to the Final 4 Hymns. (\$1=1 vote, \$5=5 votes, \$10=10 votes, & \$20=25 votes)

April Schedule of Events:

Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 11 am; Palm Sunday celebration in the church sanctuary. Children who want to be in the palm procession are asked to be at church Sunday by 10:30 am to practice. The children with palms will lead the palm celebration, entering the church. Special music will be shared on that day along with Holy Communion.

Thursday, April 6th at 6 pm; Maundy Thursday Light Supper of soup, bread and salad will take place in Fellowship Hall. Afterwards, a solemn service of washing of the feet and hands will take place in the church sanctuary. Sign-up sheet for food is in the church foyer.

Friday, April 7th at 7 pm; Tenebrae Service of gospel readings will take place in the sanctuary. This Good Friday service marks the time between the death of Jesus Christ on the cross and the awaiting of the upcoming Resurrection.

Easter Sunday, April 9th at 7 am; Sunrise Service with breakfast to follow in the fellowship hall.

Easter Sunday, April 9th at 11 am; Worship Service with Communion; People attending church on Easter are invited to bring cut flowers to insert into the living cross at the church. Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the church follows the worship service on the front lawn. ***Please donate candy to be placed inside plastic eggs; candy can be left in basket in the church kitchen.** Final day to Vote for your favorite Hymn. For folks who ordered Easter flowers, hydrangeas go home with you after the 11 am service.

Sunday April 16th, 11 am– Hymn Sing Sunday!!! “Come Christians Join and Sing” the favorite hymn of MRPC - find out the Winner of the Hymn Bracket.

Sunday April 23rd, 11 am - Worship Service led by the children of our church

Sunday April 30th, 11 am – Worship Service



PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

11am: Palm Sunday Service

Palm Sunday is the day Jesus makes his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We begin Holy Week here, with the procession of palms.

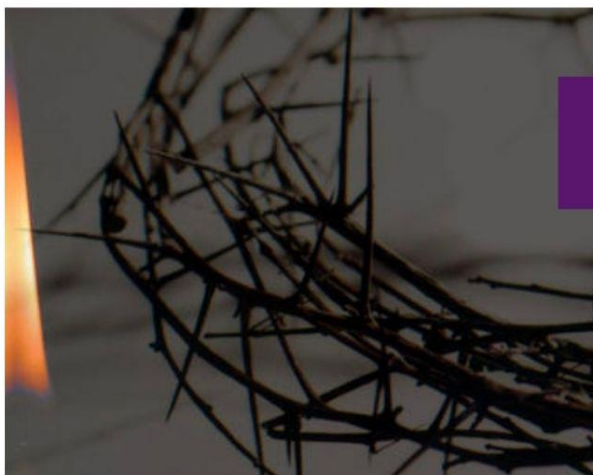


MAUNDY THURSDAY

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

6pm: Maundy Thursday Service

Soup, bread and salad dinner with a service of reflection and footwashing in the Fellowship Hall.



GOOD FRIDAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

7pm: Service of the Tenebrae

The word "tenebrae" is Latin for darkness or shadows. The Tenebrae service is an ancient tradition in Christian history that took place on one of the last three days of Holy Week. The purpose of this service is to remember the somber events that occurred in Jesus' life.

EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

7am: Easter Sunrise Service

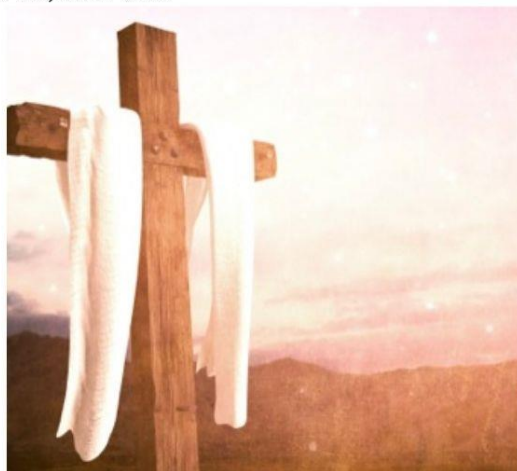
8am: Breakfast prepared by the men of the church

11am: Traditional Worship

After worship: Easter Egg Hunt

MAY YOU OBSERVE A HOLY LENT.

Website: millsriverpresbyterian.org Phone: 828.891.7101





APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Noon PW Birthday Lunch *Jessica Chitwood
2 Palm Sunday 11 am Worship w/ Palms Processional & Communion 2 pm Memorial Service for Laurie Auten	3 1 pm PW Council	4 6 pm Lenten Study *Nancy Barnett	5 5:30 pm Handbells 7 pm Choir Practice	6 6 pm Maundy Thursday Supper & Worship	7 7 pm Tenebrae Worship *Maxine Jarman, April Verch	8
9 Easter Sunday 7 am Sunrise Service & Breakfast 11 am Worship w/Communion & Easter Egg Hunt *Grace Weeter	10 10 am Lectio Divina	11 10 am Esther Bible Study	12 5:30 pm Handbells 7 pm Choir Practice	13 2 pm Ruth Bible Study *Ted Pacocha	14	15 *Andrew Ellis
16 11 am Worship w/ Hymn Sing *Beth Lindsey	17 10 am Lectio Divina *Makayla Gosnell, Christian Leon, Peter Watermulder	18 6 pm Book Group	19 5:30 pm Handbells 7 pm Choir Practice	20	21 Transformation Village Team 2 *Darren Adrignola	22 10 am PW Women of WNC (Gastonia)
23 11 am Worship w/Children's Service	24 10 am Lectio Divina *Valerie Holcombe	25	26 5:30 pm Handbells 7 pm Choir Practice	27	28 *David Krantz	29
30 11 am Worship *Judy Gosnell, Jeannie Hardin						*Birthdays

Upcoming Birthdays: Lexi McGrath – May 6th