**Good News Newsletter**

**First Presbyterian Church of Decatur**

**April 2020**

***Katie's Korner,***

In March we began talking about walking in the darkness, but I had no idea how much darkness would come over us this past month. In response to COVID-19 we have stopped gathering together physically for worship until further notice. We do not know how long we will be living apart from one another, but we anxiously anticipate our blessed reunion. Our weekly services are available online, through our Facebook page @fpcdecaturmi or Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL7yg6Hv4gkifKbDZKEQ6mQ>

This has been hard on all of us, the stress and anxiety mixed in with having to stay at home for days at a time has changed our world drastically. It’s important to remember that this is the season of resurrection. There is no greater reminder than the flowers busting forth from the earth and the tress beginning to bud, the birds chirping each morning. Even though we will not be meeting together for worship on Easter morning the tomb will still be empty. Even when we cannot see it, feel it or understand it, Christ will bring us new life. That is what we celebrate on Easter morning, not the fancy hats and dresses, or a visit from the Easter Bunny, it’s that Christ has conquered the grave.

Easter is also more than one day of the year, it is a season, which perfectly coincides with spring. As Christians the season of Easter lasts all the way through May, but that will not stop us from seeing how God can make all things new, even in death we have new life. So in this time of social distancing and isolation, I invite you to look for evidence of the resurrection, in this situation, in nature, in your relations, for it is truly everywhere you look.

Yours in Christ,

**Rev. Katie Hartwell**

[This Photo](http://regardingnannies.com/2011/03/backyard-bird-feeder-to-welcome-spring/) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/3.0/)

On Ash Wednesday, we decoupaged glasses and planted a bulb in black rocks to remind us how God brings new life even out of the ashes. If you were there, please take a picture of your plant to see how it’s grown and send it to Rev. Katie before April 10th, she include in our Easter worship. You may also send pictures of the flowers in your yard that have begun to shine.

APRIL 7TH AT 7:00PM Session will meet virtually using ZOOM. Elders, check your email for more information this week.

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**DEACON OF THE MONTH**

**Lisa Sikkema – 269-491-5193**

**But all our deacons have been doing such a great job with calling members. Thank You.**

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**April Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**3rd Bob & Connie Johnson Anniv. 14th Bradley Newell**

**5th David Vliek 16th Stan & Donna Klimczak, Anniv.**

 **Ava Allen 17th Tom & Connie McIntyre, Anniv.**

**8th Gloria Houtman 26th Pat Cubbage**

**11th Hilary Newell**

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  **SADLY SOUP SUPPER HAS BEEN CANCELLED **





**Presbyterian Women**

**I told Karina from Wings of God for some reason the Lord doesn't want her to meet with us......At our November meeting she was scheduled and we had the only snow storm of the season, and now this Virus. This too shall pass. JMR**



**Ways to Help Others**

* Keep our free pantry and library stocked with food for those who need it
* Call or send a card to someone just because
* Donate a bag of food to Decatur Human Services when shopping at Village Market
* Get dinner from Hard Times, Final Gravity, or other local restaurants and tip well!
* PRAY!!! for each other, for our leaders, and for our own sense of peace

Our Special Offering for Easter, April 12th is the One Great Hour of Sharing, which supports three programs Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please give generously online or by mailing in a check to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 220 with OGHS in the memo line, or by placing the check in designated offering envelop.