

# The First Word

**APRIL  
2026**

**April 1**

**Wednesday of Holy Week**

Isa. 50:4-9a and  
Ps. 70; Heb. 12:1-3;  
John 13:21-32

**April 2**

**Maundy Thursday**

Ex. 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14 and  
Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19;  
1 Cor. 11:23-26;  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**April 3**

**Good Friday**

Isa. 52:13-53:12 and  
Ps. 22; Heb. 10:16-25 or  
Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9;  
John 18:1-19:42

**April 5**

**Resurrection of the Lord/  
Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34-43 or  
Jer. 31:1-6 and  
Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24;  
Col. 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43;  
Matt. 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18

**Easter Evening**

Isa. 25:6-9 and Ps. 114; 1 Cor.  
5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

**April 12**

**2nd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 and  
Ps. 16 or Ex. 15:1-11 and  
Ps. 111; 1 Pet. 1:3-9;  
John 20:19-31

**April 19**

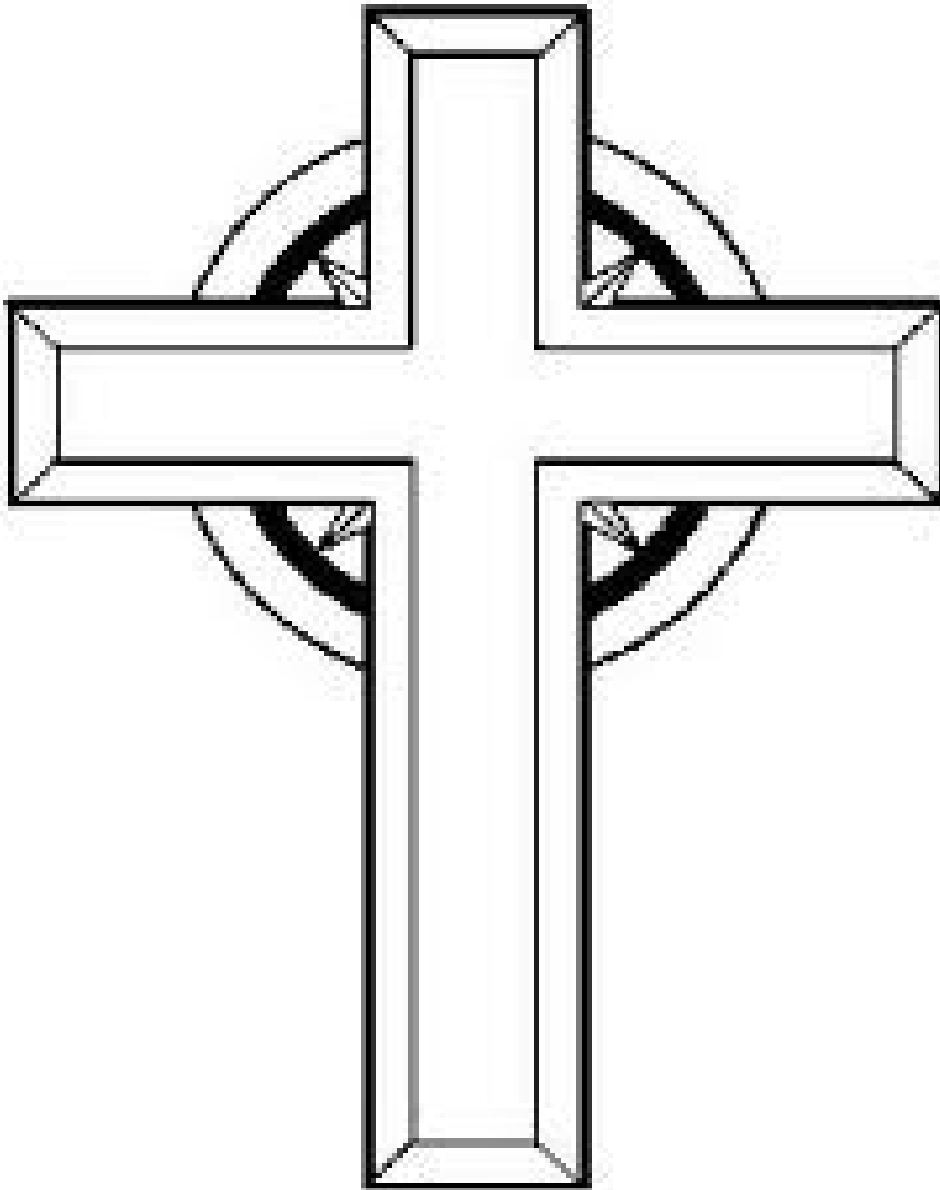
**3rd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 and  
Ps. 116:1-4, 12-19 or Isa. 51:1-6  
and Ps. 34:1-10; 1 Pet. 1:17-23;  
Luke 24:13-35

**April 26**

**4th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:42-47 and  
Ps. 23 or Ezek. 34:7-15 and  
Ps. 100; 1 Pet 2:19-25;  
John 10:1-10





## First Word Meditation

“O sing to the LORD a new song;  
Sing to the LORD all the earth.”  
Psalm 96:1

New dress, new coat, new hat, new gloves, new shoes, new purse. At Easter, Mother dressed me in all my new Easter accoutrements. I was happy to wear my new Easter outfit, but it was many years before I made the connection between new clothes and a new heart that was Jesus’s amazing sacrificial gift to me at Easter.

As I grew older, the wearing of new Easter clothes became less of a focus. More important to me now is the condition of my Easter heart rather than the condition of my Easter clothes.

What is an Easter heart?

- A heart that looks forward to the recounting of Jesus’s resurrection from the grave.
- A heart that seeks a renewed relationship with Jesus.
- A heart that rededicates itself to serving Jesus by serving others.
- A heart that sings again and again the ever-new Song of Easter.

This Holy Week I have thought much about the condition of my Easter heart. I pray that this Easter my heart will be new and fresh and eager to serve as I was so eager to wear those new Easter clothes years ago.





## PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

### PRAISE REPORTS

Congratulations to Zane Vogel & Katy Longton as they welcome Baby Girl Liliana June.  
Welcome to the world little one. Your church family loves you.

Baby Boys Wes & Benny Ault are both at home. Continued Prayers for this precious little family.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Sandra Mims**

Continued Prayers

**Brennen Bowen**

Continued Prayers

**Toni Oakes**

(Ed Oakes' Sister)  
Continued Prayers

**Allison L. Jones**

(Scott Jones' Mother)  
Continued Prayers

**Hope Oakes**

Continued Prayers

**Harolyn Jones**

Recovery from fall (broken knee)

**Hilda Nance**

Hillary Richardson's Aunt  
Recovery from stroke

**The Turner Family**

(Friends of Eric Krieger)  
On the loss of Anita Marie Turner

**Colby Huffman**

(Friend of Halli Powers)  
Continued Prayers

**Jon & Dorothy Fortman**

Continued Prayers

**Sherean Harrington**

(Hope Oakes' Stepmother)  
Continued Prayers

**Julian Gardner**

Continued Prayers

**Ginny Oakes**

(Ed Oakes' Mother)  
Continued Prayers

**Simon Storer**

(Friend of Lee Hackett)  
Cancer Diagnosis

**Noah Russell Nagy**

Continued Prayers

**Doug & Kandi Aultman & Family**

Continued Prayers

**Wayne Bruchey**

Health Concerns

**Hines Bostwick**

(Jennifer Mearkle's Stepfather)  
Health Concerns

**Baby Boys Wes & Benny Ault**

Continued Prayers

**Jean Bowen (95)**

(Grandmother of the Bowen Children)  
Recovery from fall



# April Birthdays

Doug Aultman	April 1
Scott Jones	April 9
Xander Nowell	April 10
Kelsey Hill	April 12
Steve Wilkes	April 15
Robert Conway	April 18
Gaines Gaskin	April 20
John Frazier	April 22
Keith Gaskin	April 23
Desiree Krieger	April 26

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



"Let the little children come to me." Matthew 19:14

Thank you to our faithful children's message volunteers. You are a blessing.

Contact the church office if you would like to volunteer.





## **JOIN A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM TODAY**

### **Nursery Care**

9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Nursery Care is available in the Education Building for ages birth to kindergarten.

### **Children's Sunday School**

Grades 1 & 2 – 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Grades 3 & up – 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School children will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m.

Children's Message – During Worship

Children's Lesson – Ages 4 – Kindergarten

Please pick up children in a timely manner after the service.

### **Adult Sunday School – Tom Richardson**

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

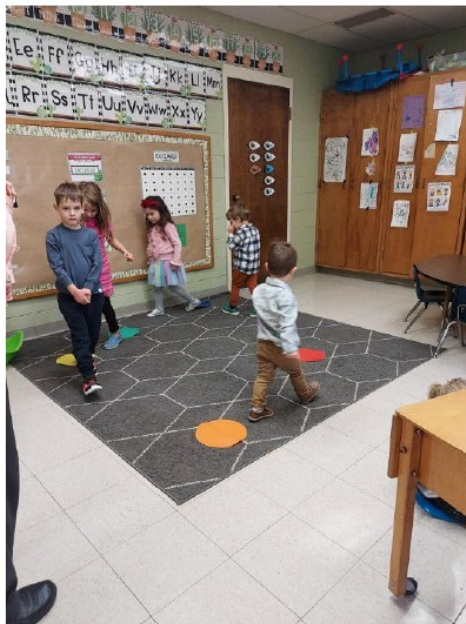
Beginning Sunday, January 11, the Agape Sunday School class (Tom Richardson, teacher) will embark on a study of selected literary works (primarily Scottish) that have a theological focus. The study will examine how writers have used biblical references within their works and how they have responded to particular issues of the history of the Presbyterian Church, to major points of church doctrine (especially the influence of John Calvin), and to important ethical and moral questions that have arisen from the social and political application of church doctrine. The literary selections will be provided to the class. The class meets Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the parlor of the education building.

### **Prayer Group**

Wednesdays 12:30 p.m.

The Prayer Group meets every Wednesday in the Parlor.

All are welcome to join us.





# Join us for Prayer Group


Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church Parlor

3200 Bluecutt Road

Columbus, MS

All are welcome!





Join us for  
Monk's Meal/Tenebrae Service  
Thursday, April 2, 2026  
6:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church  
3200 Bluzett Road  
Columbus, MS 39701

# Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 a.m.

Join us on the Hill for  
food and fellowship.





*Join us  
for lunch!*

April  
Fellowship Meal

Sunday, April 26, 2026  
following worship.

Shepherding Group 2 will  
provide fried chicken.

Please bring your favorite  
side or dessert to share.

BOOK STUDY

# HENRI J. M. NOUWEN

## THE WOUNDED HEALER

In our own woundedness,  
we can become a source  
of life for others



**Wednesdays 1:30**

**April 15**

**April 22**

**April 29**

**May 6**

**May 13**

**May 20**



**Led by Pam Rhea**

[deaconrhea@gmail.com](mailto:deaconrhea@gmail.com)

# JOIN US

First Presbyterian Church  
3200 Bluecutt Road  
Columbus, MS





First Presbyterian Church  
"Come up The Hill to worship; go down The Hill to serve."

On Friday, March 20th, 382 meals were served, and 30 children's books were distributed.  
Thank you to our faithful volunteers, 14 volunteers helped make this happen!





March 29, 2026



# Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Mary Frances!

March 29, 2026, Mrs. Mary Frances Nelson celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Thank you to her family for providing the beautiful flowers and delicious cake.





PRESBYTERIAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
PLAY. LEARN. GROW.

## April News

April is a busy month at PCDP! Below you will find some of the fun activities we have planned for April.

April 1-3:

Our theme is Easter.

4/1 Peeps 5 senses project and graphing

4/2 Egg hunt and class parties.

4/3 Good Friday, closed

April 6-10:

Our theme is Farm

4/6 Farm set up

4/7 Mini Tails Farm visits with their petting zoo, Grain milling

4/8 Children visit our PCDP Farm in the fellowship hall, bake with our milled grain

4/9 Children visit our PCDP Farm in the fellowship hall, cow milking and butter making

4/10 Farm take down

April 13-17:

Our theme is All about Bugs

4/14 Bug Hunting

4/16 Start seed sprouting experiment

April 20-24:

Our theme is Gardening

4/21 Examine and graph our seed experiment

4/22 Flower color activity with carnations

4/23 Flower arranging activity

April 27-30:

Our them is Space Exploration

4/28 Planet art activity

4/29 Constellation ABC activity

4/30 Cap and gown photos with Mixed Media Photography

Volunteers are needed for Farm Week on 4/7, 4/8, and 4/9. Volunteers will help children cycle through the activities in the PCDP Farm. Activities include: pond fishing, vegetable digging, egg gathering, horse riding, grain milling, cow milking, tractor riding, and stagecoach rides. Please let Lezli know if you would like to help us out.

A huge thank you to Ms. Glenda Crusoe for her generous donation of fruit cups for our snack time. The children love fruit!

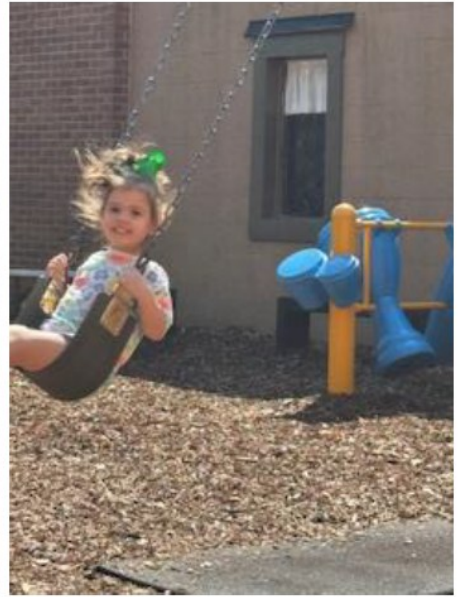
Another thank you goes to Mr. Ed Oakes for his weekly donation of stickers and notepads for our art center. Our students look forward to new supplies each Monday!

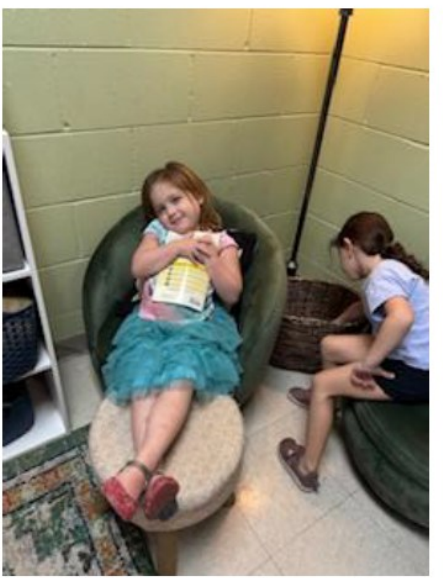


April is Autism Acceptance Month. At PCDP, we celebrate that every child learns, plays, and experiences the world in their own beautiful way. We are committed to fostering a kind, inclusive, and supportive community for all our little learners.



Preschool days are the best days...





Bunny Toss with  
Mrs. Jenn's Three Year Old Class



*A day of Easter fun, silliness, and giggles.*



## Egg Hatching

The kinder-prep class has been learning about lifecycles. This week we learned about the lifecycle of chicks and ducks.

We started by reading a book about the lifecycle of an egg.

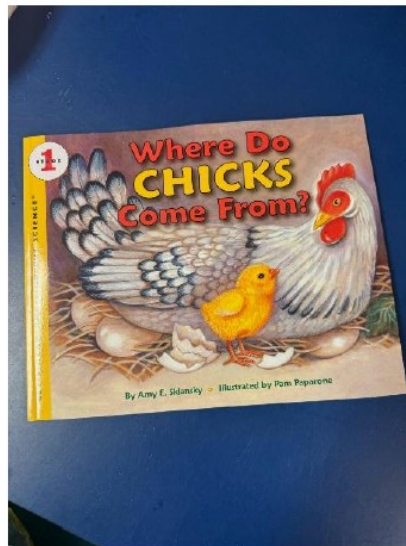
Next, we decorated a paper egg and put them in a nest on our chairs.

Throughout the week we sat on our eggs during art, activity, and snack time.

On Thursday morning we arrived at school to find our eggs had hatched and baby ducks were sitting in our chairs!



A big thank you to Mrs. Hope our "PCDP Librarian" for finding a book about baby chicks!



# PCDD EASTER EGG HUNT



*Mrs. Haily & Ms. Amanda's Toddler Class*



# PCDP EASTER EGG HUNT



## Mrs. Jenn's 3-Year Old Class



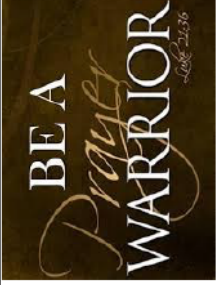
# PCDP EASTER EGG HUNT



## Mrs. Lezli's Kinder-Prep Class



Come Worship With Us Every Sunday!  
 Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
 Social Gathering: 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
 Worship: 11:00 a.m.



Join us for Prayer Group every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor. ALL are welcome!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>5</b> Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter Day 11:00 a.m. Communion Worship Rev. Buren Blankenship	<b>6</b> PCDP Farm Week Set-up 10:00 a.m. Congregational Care/ Christian Action Meeting	<b>7</b> PCDP Petting Zoo Volunteers Needed	<b>1</b> Wednesday of Holy Week 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group 5:00 p.m. Worship & Music Meeting	<b>2</b> Maundy Thursday 10:00 a.m. Stokes Beard Backpack Meals Delivery (Lee Hackett) 5:30 p.m. AI-Anon 6:00 p.m. Monk's Meal/Tenebrae Dr. Tom Richardson	<b>3</b> Good Friday PCDP & Office Closed	<b>4</b> Great Vigil of Easter 9:00 a.m. FPC Mini Work Day Preparation for Easter Sunday
<b>12</b> 2nd Sunday of Easter 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. Deacon Pam Rhea 12:15 p.m. Deacons' Meeting 3:00 p.m. PW Gathering	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b> PCDP Farm Week Volunteers Needed 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group	<b>9</b> PCDP Farm Week Volunteers Needed 10:00 a.m. Stokes Beard Backpack Meals Delivery (Larry Swartz) 5:30 p.m. AI-Anon	<b>10</b> PCDP Farm Week Take down	<b>11</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
<b>19</b> 3rd Sunday of Easter 8:30 a.m. Session Meeting 11:00 a.m. Worship David Mills	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b> 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. "The Wounded Healer" Book Study led by Pam Rhea <b>*All Committee Meeting minutes due to church office.*</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 a.m. Stokes Beard Backpack Meals Delivery (Mary Nelson) 5:30 p.m. AI-Anon	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>26</b> 4th Sunday of Easter 11:00 a.m. Worship Melissa McDuffie 2 Cents A Meal Fellowship Lunch following worship—Group 2	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b> 12:30 p.m. Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. "The Wounded Healer" Book Study led by Pam Rhea	<b>23</b> 10:00 a.m. Stokes Beard Backpack Meals Delivery (Tom & Emma Richardson) 5:30 p.m. AI-Anon	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>