

News from Hunter

March 2021



Friends -

There is a light at the end of the tunnel, the tunnel being a year-long loss of in person church life, missing hugs and family visits. However, as I write this we have just passed a gruesome headline, that we have lost 500,000 people to Covid-19 since it first showed up here in the United States. We continue to have much to grieve, and we will be individually and collectively grieving the people who have died from this virus, the time that we have lost with loved ones, the time that we missed out on hugs in the foyer on Sunday morning. In the midst of our grieving, God is there. God walks with us, holds us, and helps us put one foot in front of the other.



Throughout Lent we will be following the theme Again and Again, by A Sanctified Art. Each week our Lenten Blessing will end with the following words:

*As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm—
Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.
Amen.*

I hope that you are able to remember these words every day. Put them on your fridge, use them as a bookmark. We need these words as a reminder to us who we are and whose we are, and everywhere we go, whatever space we are leaving, we go with a God who holds us close.

Grace & peace,

Emily



Rev. Emily's Installation as Pastor at Hunter will be **Sunday, March 7**, at 5:00pm, and will be live streamed on Hunter's Facebook page. If you would like to "attend" Emily's installation, please email Hunter's office for the direct link. Thanks!



February 28: Worship online as usual.

*March 7: Worship online with the Presbytery Sunday in the morning. But don't forget to Zoom with Hunter at 5:00p.m. that day for Emily Miller's long awaited **installation** as our called pastor!*

March 14, 21, 28: Worship online as usual.

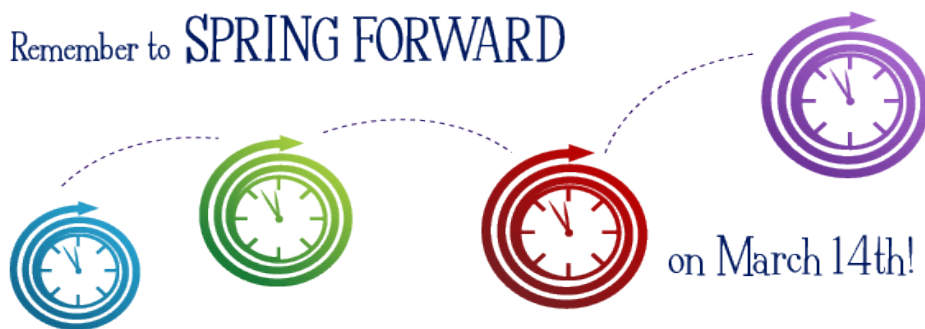
April 2: Joint Good Friday service online. Details to follow.

Online Worship with the Presbytery

March 7 will be the last "first Sunday" worship for which we will join the Presbytery. (On Easter, April 4, we'll have our own service.)

Beginning in April, and going through August, the Presbytery service will be offered on the **second** Sunday of each month: April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8.

Remember to **SPRING FORWARD**



Easter Services on Sunday, April 4



7:00 a. m.: Short in-person Sunrise service at the Arboretum. We will be in person, distanced and masked. Sunrise comes at 6:41a.m. so arrive a little early if you want to be there to enjoy the celestial prelude.

11:00 a. m.: Online worship from Hunter's sanctuary.



TRUTH THAT RICOCHETS

I went to a lecture once —
An interfaith conversation with
interfaith leaders.
Whispers bounced off the
church's tile floors
As people shuffled into place,
Carrying hope alongside
assumptions —
Mixed into pockets like loose change.

About halfway through the evening,
A young woman in a blue hijab
began speaking.
She was the youngest person on
the panel,
Seated far to the left. You might
almost miss her
If you weren't paying attention;
But not here, not when she spoke.

In quiet determination she told us of
fear and persecution.
She told us of hatred and racial slurs,
Thrown at her people from car
windows like bombs.
It was a truth I did not know,
And that truth ricocheted like sunlight
through the cathedral windows,
Touching almost everyone that day.

Then a man in the back who could
have been me —
Who has been me —
Approached the microphone and said,
"Your people are persecuted. You
live in fear. You are battered
by hate.
If that is true, then why am I just
now hearing about it?
Why is your story not on the news?
Why have you not spoken up
about it?"

And the air was still, partly because
we held our breath in anticipation,
And partly because the Spirit slows
her dance when we stand at the
edge of truth.

The woman in the blue hijab leaned
into the microphone
And whispered with a quiet strength
that can only come from years
of practice:
"We are screaming."

If there is one truth in my life
That unfolds again and again,
It is the need to listen.

For again and again, I will try,
with good intentions,
To act and walk with love.
But again and again, I will
make mistakes.
Again and again, I will say the
wrong thing.
Again and again, they will call
me Peter,
And again and again, they will
be right.

So again and again,
I will pray for a truth that ricochets,
For ears that will listen,
And for space to hold truth.

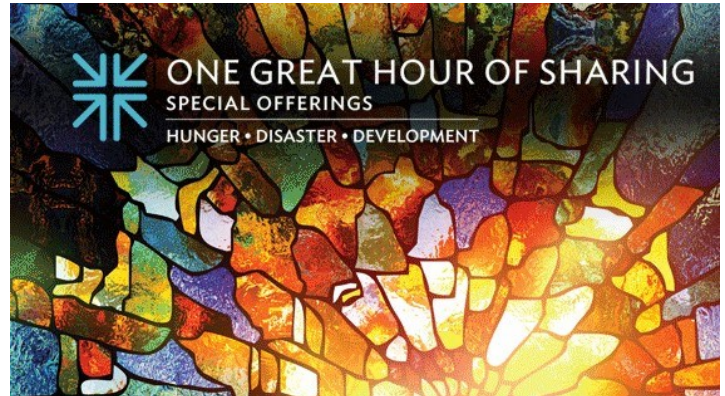
If people are screaming,
And to be clear —
people *are* screaming —
I do not want to miss it.

Poem by Rev. Sarah Are

One Great Hour of Sharing

Each year during Lent, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need through supporting One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). The One Great Hour of Sharing ministries are:

- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** responds locally to help with a wide variety of disasters. Recovery efforts from local wild-fires, tornados, and floods receive needed funding and refugees are offered help to seek legal advice about becoming legal residences in the United States.
- **The Presbyterian Hunger Program** provides funding for grants to Blessings in a Backpack; donating money, food and volunteers at food banks; and raising funding through the CROP Walk.
- **The Presbyterian Committee on Self-Development of People** works with low income communities across the United States to overcome oppression and injustice. Projects include literacy, worker-owned cooperatives, advocacy, youth-led initiatives, farming, immigration/refugees issues and capacity building.



We ask you to prayerfully consider what you can do to answer God's call and contribute to these vital missions.

4 Nora Jennings Chesnut
9 Milton Coughenour
9 Lola Woolums
9 Charlie Allen
14 Virginia "Jennie" Hall
14 Mia Telechbush
15 Art Wright
23 Doris Palmer
24 Adam Telechbush
30 Felix Brady

March Birthdays

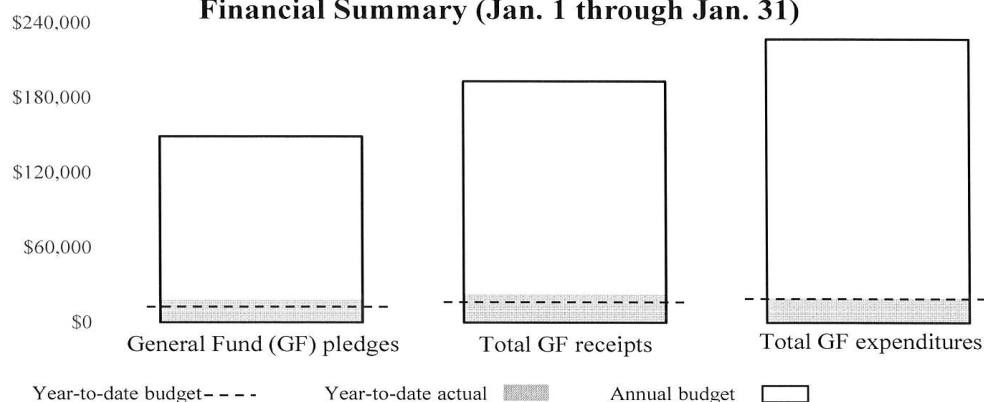


Important Dates Coming Up for B.U.I.L.D.

March 23 — B.U.I.L.D. Rally
(by Zoom) at 7 pm

April 27 — B.U.I.L.D. Nehemiah Action Assembly at 6:30 pm (probably by Zoom)

Financial Summary (Jan. 1 through Jan. 31)





You can order Easter flowers through **Monday, March 22** (order form to the right).

Here's the plan: we'll try to arrange the flowers so that they will be within range of the camera for our online Easter service. After the service, we will either hold flowers for individual pickup during the week, or deliver them to your doorstep, as you prefer. In the event we can no longer even stream worship services, we'll use the flowers for a temporary outdoor display to brighten the neighborhood.

Please indicate on your check or order form if you will pick up your plant, want home delivery or want them used in an outdoor display.



Unity Garden Update

Anyone for fully frozen kale? The weather has been rough so it will be a learning curve to see what can survive this type of winter. Looking forward to spring which seems right around the corner if one believes the daffodils.



Easter Flowers Order Form 2021

Easter is April 4th. Tulips, Hyacinths and Easter Lilies will be ordered to decorate our church. The cost is \$10 per plant. If you would like to purchase a plant in honor or memory of someone special, please fill out the form below and send it to the church office. Please make checks payable to *Hunter Presbyterian Church* with 'Easter Flowers' in the memo line.

***Please submit all orders by Monday, March 22nd!**

Please **print** your information below.

Name: _____

Lilies _____ Tulips _____ Hyacinths _____

Total # of plants _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

(for office use only)

PAID: YES _____ NO _____

AMOUNT: _____

CASH: _____ CHECK# _____

EASTER 2021



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Hunter is an Earth Care Congregation – Please Recycle

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subscription to online-only.
l.davis@hunterlex.org—thanks! Lynn