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He is  
RISEN



## Behold! Or, Don't Waste Your Easter

A word from Pastor Jonathan Evans

“He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11b

The gospel must be central because nothing else even comes close to filling the eternal gap. We all agree that fallen man has a “God-shaped hole,” as St. Augustine once said, but then we go on to suggest all kinds of fillers that are not God — financial security, job security, awesome house, great internet service, healthy relationships, healthy body (!), successful marriages, happy spouses and children, community service, outlets for our creativity, etc. All good things but all things you can have and do and still be eternally bankrupt.

Quite a number of Easters ago after I had preached an Easter message at the Sunrise service, a guy came up to me afterwards and said, “Thank you. I can’t tell you how refreshing it is to hear about the resurrection

on Easter.” I sort of laughed, figuring he was joking. That week I listened to the message podcast from the church service he mentioned he had attended the past Easter. It was a large church in another part of the country. He was not joking.

In years past, churches have opened Easter Sunday services with AC/DC songs, laser light shows, egg drops from helicopters, and in PA I drove past a church giving a car away during the Easter Service, as well as a myriad of things along those lines. This year the need to outdo last is pressing. One very large church was giving away automobiles (plural) and other prizes.

The simple explanation for all this is that they want people to hear about the resurrection, and these are some of the ways churches attempt to get people in proximity to hear the message. I am reminded of when Jesus tells the rich man in hell that if his surviving family didn’t believe Moses and the prophets, they weren’t going to believe a resurrected man. Does that sound backwards to you? The same principle is at stake here. If the message that Jesus died *and came back to life* (!) isn’t compelling enough to draw people, the enticement of winning a car is not going to cut it. Anyone who believes in Christ because they were

attracted by “stuff” has been won over to the prosperity gospel, not the cross, not the crucifixion gospel.

The harder explanation for all this is that the PT Barnum pastoral tribe doesn’t trust that the gospel is a compelling message. They don’t trust that they can make it sound attractive and exciting just as it is. They’ve lost trust that it is, actually, power. If they hadn’t, they wouldn’t feel the need to put it inside the Trojan horse of cash and prizes.

Why do churches treat the resurrection like it’s the heartworm medicine you put in a hot dog to trick the dog? The truth is that all the bombast, the flash, the publicity, the attractions are a waste. They are the offer of mud pies, because we just can’t figure out how to sell a holiday at sea.

C. S. Lewis put it so well when he wrote:

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”  
*The Weight of Glory, and Other Addresses*

(You see, really, the holiday sells itself.)

Our scale is far too small. The Bible speaks to all manner of good things useful to all people, but the Church is starving (starving!) for the glory of God. We too easily forget that the gospel covers the scale of eternity, that it is the division between real life and death, that God is infinite, and our sin is a condemnation-worthy offense against an eternally holy and

just God. We preach and we settle for much less than, “Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!”

Every week people file into church services aching for hope today, and the hope of eternity. Yet, how sad it is, that in our zeal to provide something they may find comfortable and useful and inoffensive, are we offending the God who wishes to offend us in awe of His glory? Are we dismissing our Lord Jesus whose formula for victory includes crucifixion? I think of that so often as we approach Good Friday. A verse that has struck me lately is this from the Apostle Paul writing to the Corinthians: “And he (Jesus Christ) died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again” (2 Corinthians 5:15).

That’s the reason why the hymn ends ...

*Soar we now where Christ has led, alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, alleluia!*

The cross? The grave? The skies? What are we talking about? If you’re a Christian, he loves you like that. That love is indestructible. That love has destroyed death. That love will not let death take you out either. Therefore, no matter what happens to you ... cross, graves, or skies ... it’s all ours. It’s all ours. Every part of it. Everything! The worst thing that can happen to you is that you die, and it makes you the best. It makes you glorious. It makes you like him if you’re a Christian.

Everything ... *everything* ... is part of his loving plan for you. He is not going to let anything take you down. His love for you has already experienced the ultimate for you. What’s that mean? What does it mean?

**It means Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead.**

That is the most important fact in history. That's the center of your life. It's the center of the church. It's the center of the Christian message. It's what our lives are all about. Do you understand that? Have you taken that in?

The scale is enormous, the stakes are high. This Easter, instead of spiritually dressing up the idols we know people want, let's give them what they need — God all in all, the filling of the Spirit, the exaltation of the risen Lord.

***“Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us, that we should be called the sons of God!” – 1 John 3:1a***

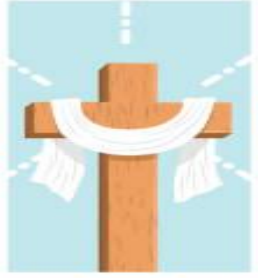
I believe that above all should be the chief goal of our worship services — *beholding*. Behold our glorious God and his lavishing of grace on us in his precious Son who has done all things— humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross, taking the penalty for all our sins, and has risen (alleluia!), and ascended to the right hand of the Father.

***“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.” – Romans 11:36***

*May you have a blessed and glorious Easter!*



# HAPPY Holy Week



The Easter Season has arrived!

Our Holy Week schedule is as follows:



April 13: Palm Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM

April 17: Maundy Thursday Service @ 5:00 PM



April 18: Good Friday

"Journey to the Stations of the Cross" Yarnell

see page 5 for more information

April 20: Easter Morning



Easter Potluck Breakfast in Fellowship Hall @ 8:00 AM

Easter Service in the Sanctuary @ 9:30 AM

Please bring your family, friends, & neighbors too!

## Journey to the Cross



On Good Friday, April 18, Pastor Jonathan invites you on a journey to the Cross in Yarnell. There, we will experience the Stations of the Cross at the Shrine of Saint Joseph as we meditate, pray, and share Holy Communion.

Those interested in joining us are asked to meet at the church at 8:45 AM. We will car pool to Yarnell with an estimated return time of noon. If you have any questions, please contact the front office at 928-684-2836

## Get Your Easter Lilies!

A sign up sheet to purchase Easter Lilies in remembrance of loved ones and that will grace the sanctuary Easter morning will be in Fellowship Hall.

Please see Sharon Horn for more information!



## Easter Breakfast Potluck



Join us for an Easter Breakfast Potluck, Easter morning at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Bring your favorite Easter dish and bring your family, friends, & neighbors too!

# REJOICE!





## OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday-Thursday  
9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office (928) 684-2836

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Don't Miss the

**DEADLINE!**

The next Witness deadline, for May, will be Wednesday, April 16th.

Please double check your calendars and have all articles, meetings, updates, etc. into the witness editor by the deadline.

Thank you and God Bless,  
Deb B  
Witness Editor



## GREEN BAG NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PROJECT DROP OFF DATE APRIL 12th

Bring your Green Bags to stage by April 11th. You can bring in your Green Bags anytime and put them on the stage in Fellowship Hall.



## Church clean up days

Help make our church shine for Easter!

We're cleaning up the church & looking for some volunteers on Thursday April 10th and Friday April 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A sign up sheet along with duties you'd like to sign up for is in Fellowship Hall on the front round white table.



## CONTACT THE WITNESS

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

## CONTRIBUTORS

Pastor Jonathan, Deb Berner, Arleen  
Younkman, Gail Graham, Sharon  
Reinhardt

## VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

Facebook/  
[wickeburgfirstpresbyterianchurch](https://www.facebook.com/wickeburgfirstpresbyterianchurch)  
Please see Jessica Kuemerle for  
more information!

## Visit our Website

[fpcwickenburg.org](http://fpcwickenburg.org)

# NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## NIFTY EEDLERS

TUESDAYS

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in  
the Gathering Room.

All skill levels are welcome!

Bring your lunch!!



## Yard Sale, A Big Success

PW would like to thank everyone who  
had a part in making the  
yard sale a success! We  
had volunteers camping  
out at the church from  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday thru Friday to collect and price  
contributions for the sale and to help on  
the day of the sale.



THANKYOU ALL!!

## Annual Spring Luncheon

APRIL 24, 2025

at Noon in Fellowship Hall



## POTLUNCH TO WELCOME SPRING

BREAK OUT THAT SPRING BONNET  
AND WEAR IT, (optional), TO THE  
SPRING LUNCHEON. THIS PROMISES  
TO BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR  
FUN AND FELLOWSHIP AND A  
CHANCE TO BID FAIRWELL TO OUR  
SNOWBIRDS! JOIN US AND BRING A  
FRIEND AND A DISH TO SHARE



## PLEASE PRAY FOR, VISIT, AND/OR PHONE:



### Assisted Living:

Jeanine Brown, Howard Kennedy, Wanda Schneider, Ruth & Bill Schlecht, Sam & Carole Weinschenk,

### At Home:

Leo & Denise Wisseman, Marilyn Austin, Glori Beattie, Brownie

### College Students:

Ross Longshore, Yavapai College  
Lauren Brockett, Montana State Univ.  
John Thomas, Yavapai College  
Russell Barnes, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo



### Missionaries:

**Mexico:** Allyson Searway, Justin & Rosita Searway

**Taiwan:** Rod & Beth Williamson

**Indonesia:** Mike & Christy Brown

**Indonesia:** Sean & Angie McKelvey

**ECO Ministry ~ Alaska:** Joey Chang

**United World Mission:** Nancy Kilpatrick

**KAIROS Prison Ministry**

**JARS** (Jungle Aviation/radio service)

**Mongolia Campus Crusade for Christ:** Ebo & Nergui Enkhbold





## **PLEASE PRAY FOR, VISIT, AND/OR PHONE**

### ***Military:***

Staff Sgt. Ryan Breen, United States Air Force, Minot ND. A.F.B (Grandson-in-law Betty Ek)

Luke Crissman, Army

Joshua Geisler, Navy Medic (Barb Russell's nephew)

Lt. Col. Bruce Palmer MD, Anchorage, AK (Sallee's son-in-law)

Major Gillen Papenfuse, National Guard (g-son of Kimmins)

Staff Sgt. Mark Sobol (Sobol's g-son)

Jonathan Thomas, US Army, Reserves (John Thomas' nephew)



### ***Fire Fighters:***

Keith Christofferson, Sedona

Tony Christofferson, Wickenburg

Todd Reinhardt, Tonopah

Samantha Reinhardt, Tonopah



### ***Law Enforcement:***

Jeffery Thomas, Tucson Police Dept./SGT.

Mike DeChellis, Douglas County, NE/Detective

Matthew Moulson, Orange County Deputy Sheriff

~ Sharon Horn's nephew.



### ***Nurses & EMTs:***

Sharon Forrest, Cardiovascular Sonographer, Saint Agnus Medical

Center, Fresno CA. ~ Deb Berner's Aunt



## Birthdays

Irene Hill  
Ed Taylor  
Doug Conners  
Marilyn Sallee  
Sam Weinschenk  
Hank Brubaker  
Kathy DeChellis



April 3  
April 7  
April 9  
April 18  
April 21  
April 24  
April 28

Linda Conners  
Gail Evans  
Laetitia Bertolucci  
Nancy Craig  
Edna Palmer



May 7  
May 13  
May 17  
May 26  
May 28

If we inadvertently omitted your birthday (or that of a family member), please call the Church office, or send an email to the Witness, so that we can add your special day(s) to our list.



## Highlights of the March 25, 2025, Stated Session meeting

- Tom and Liz Jacobson, and Jim Henderson were received as new Covenant Partners
- April 10 and 11 will be “Deep Cleaning” days to get the church ready for Easter. Sign up for a task.
- Life Line Screening will be using Fellowship Hall and the Gathering Room on April 3.
- Easter Potluck Breakfast on April 20, sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Cheryl Longshore  
Clerk of Session

## ATTENDANCE



MONTH OF:	IN PERSON	VIRTUALLY
MARCH		
March 2	47	29
March 9	48	55
March 16	42	20
March 23	35	15
March 30	44	29
<b>AVERAGE</b>	43	30



## TITHES AND GIFTS

	GENERAL FUND	DEACON'S FUND	TOTAL
March 2	\$4,392	\$30	\$4,422
March 9	\$5,259	\$150	\$5,409
March 16	\$3,485	\$1,030	\$4,515
March 23	\$5,939	\$15	\$5,954
March 30	4,382	\$0	\$4,382
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$23,457	\$1,225	\$24,682

## April Volunteers

### COMMUNION SERVERS

#### April 6:

Arleen Younkman, Deb Berner, Chery Longshore, and Deborah Pinnell

#### April 5:

### Communion Prep

Harriet Haggett & Deborah Pinnell

### LITURGISTS

#### April

Apr 6: Verne Crissman Apr 13: Gail Evans  
Apr 20: Carol Arnett Apr 27: Susie Wirsing

#### May

May 4: Doug Quine May 11: Deb Pinnell  
May 18: Dawn Gatke May 25: Guy DeChellis

### USHER/GREETER

Marsha North/Ginny Randall



# EASTER WORD SEARCH

S R Y Q I I S Y M J D N Y S U C Q K B N  
 B W J H L D Y I H F O U O P N B K P J C  
 N L Q N G S J Y H I T B X R U Q F Y O F  
 X F A D V U Z E T Z M I B I F A T C J P  
 N L A M L V O A L A I C W N K Y A J Z U  
 S O A P B N R F D L Y C V G A N K D I K  
 A W T M S B M D M A Y P L F D G X Z P N  
 T E A D E W T Z I U M B U Y C E H Q C P  
 C R G L M E Y R O L B H E E T L B C I C  
 Z S E Y Y W O F I L D N H A Y H U X C A  
 O C J I A L M R I M Q X R T N N G C R H  
 P Z F C H R I V U A G O P X I S P X F T  
 I O Z F Z A I L G F C H L T H Q Q P K R  
 S O E L S N O Z N E L H W E C I H M C Q  
 N K X X N T L O D U H V K A T U D H I I  
 A R E T S A E S W J K F S D N F O E H Q  
 H O T E G G S K G R I W U T N C H B C R  
 Y C U C Y A N O S C U X N T O F T S T U  
 F B N N L V P Q B A R X D L I B Y X R Y  
 S L B T P M E X F T B U A V W E X M V Y  
 O V H W X P B R T L X T Y K A Q U O M C  
 H P A R A D E K R D E B L B K X V W R Y  
 M X B T I I Z W J Y X Y M I Z G W T X E  
 X Q G B L C P J A L B U N N Y S C Q A F  
 X M T E N N O B W K Y Y N Z N Y Q S Y B

Easter	Jellybeans	Spring	Bonnet
Basket	Celebration	Candy	Fun
Bunny	Decorate	Hunt	Sunday
Hide	Chocolate	Lily	Parade
Eggs	Flowers	Chick	Lamb



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**April 2025**

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find us on [facebook.](#)

**Easter Morning**  
**Sunday, April 20, 2025**  
**8:00 AM/Breakfast**  
**9:30 AM/Sunday Service**

Please join us as we celebrate the  
resurrection of our Lord Jesus!