

# Good News

April 2024



*The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim  
the work of his hands.*

*Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night  
they reveal knowledge.*

*They have no speech,  
they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.*

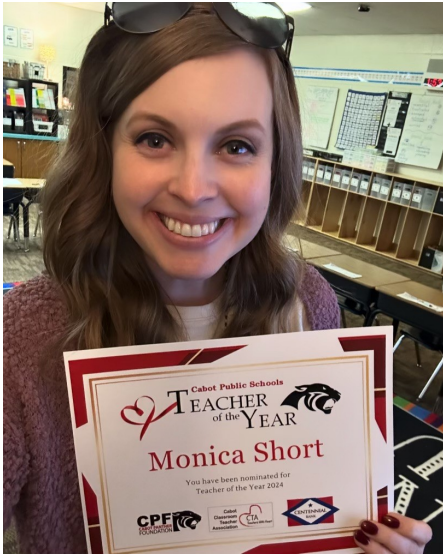
*Yet their voice goes out  
Into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.  
Psalm 19:1-4*

The solar eclipse is coming soon and will be an amazing sight. As we view this marvel, we can remember the One who made it all happen. The creator of the sun and the moon is also our creator. The God who brought the universe into being also brings us life and loves us with an unconditional, steadfast love. Let's enjoy the show that the sun and moon give us on April 8, but let's also give thanks to God who made it all possible. The heavens declare God's glory and so should we.

Details:

On April 8 Jacksonville will experience 2 minutes and 31 seconds of totality. This will be the first time since August 21, 2017 that the United States had a view of a solar eclipse. The one before that was in 1979 and the next one will be in 2044. It will begin at 12:33 pm and totality will begin at 1:52. Be sure to wear solar glasses!

Depending on your surroundings, as totality nears you may experience strange things. You'll notice a resemblance to the onset of night, though not exactly. Shadows will appear differently. Usually, any breeze will dissipate and birds (many of whom will return to roost) will stop chirping. A 10°F to 15°F drop in temperature may occur.



Monica was nominated for Teacher of the Year in the Cabot School District.

Congratulations Monica!

### **Meet the Apostles: Coming Soon!**

Duke will be leading a class where we will delve into understanding each of the apostle's relationship to Jesus and their influence on Christianity. The class will meet each Sunday after the regular church service May 26, continuing for 6 weeks.

Study materials for the class will be provided. We need to know how many workbooks to print. A sign-up sheet will be posted. You can also call the church office.

Jacelynn won first place in the state for architectural design. She will represent Arkansas and go to the national competition in June. If you would like to donate toward Jacelynn's journey to the National Competition, you can designate your gift as "scholarship fund" and put it in the offering plate.



# Pictures from the St. Patrick's Day Community Potluck



## March Report

In the month of March, we gave members of our community:

- 1 pair of shoes
- 11 hygiene kits
- 24 MREs (Meals Ready to Eat that contain enough nutrition for an adult for one day)
- 1 coat
- 18 pairs of pants and 16 shirts
- 4 blankets
- 25 pieces of clothing such as socks, underwear, gloves, and hats
- 115 snack bags

Thank you for giving to this ministry—your donations make a difference!

### Wanted!

Somehow several of the church's card tables have disappeared. If one of them happened to wander into your house, kindly send it back to church. Or if you have a card table that you are tired of and would like to part with, it would be put to good use at church. Thanks!

### Keeping God's House Clean

Please consider signing up on the tablet in the west lobby to help clean the church one weekend this month.

We can do it if we all pitch in!

### Ministers for April

April 7	Mary Jane Wandering Heart: "Here's my heart"	John 21:1-19
April 14	Mary Lee	Acts 3:12-18
April 21	Rev. Maggie	John 10:11-18
April 28	Rev. Michael	John 15:1-8

### Protect Yourself from Scammers

Did that email come from my friend or a scammer? Is someone trying to take control of my computer? How can I be safe from fraudulent schemes? If you have these questions or others about internet and computer scams, be sure and come to the Community Potluck on **May 5** and stay for a presentation from Shameka Johnson who is from the Arkansas Attorney General's office. She will be with us for lunch and will then give us information to help us protect ourselves from con artists. We can learn to foil the tricksters.

# Announcements

The Book Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. The book we are currently discussing is Original Blessing: Putting Sin in Its Rightful Place by Danielle Shroyer. Everyone is welcome, even if you don't have the book. You can still join in the discussion.

## Hospitality Time-April 7

The first Sunday of each month there will a time of gathering and fellowship after the worship service in the room beside the sanctuary. Please plan to stay and enjoy snacks and visiting with your church family.

## Community Potluck Meal-April 21

The third Sunday of each month will be our potluck meal to share with the community. We invite any of those in our community to join us as we eat together. Bring something to share as we reach out to those who may be in need of a friendly welcome and a good hot meal.

Session will meet at 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 13.

## **"Witness to the Resurrection" Planning Workshop April 21**

The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christ faith and shapes Christian's attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.

Death and end of life planning are topics most of us would rather avoid. Whether it is our own death or the death of a loved one, the idea of loss and the pain or separation cause us to avoid the subject. As a result, few of us have plans in place for end of life. Those plans include preparation of legal and financial documents, expressing wishes for our healthcare in times of incapacity, and even plans for funerals and memorial services. We want to spare our loved ones such difficult conversations. Unfortunately, it is often our very avoidance of the topic today that can later lead to increased emotional and spiritual stress on those we leave behind.

Because it is difficult to plan wisely under emotional stress, the church encourages members to discuss and plan in advance the arrangements which will be necessary at the time of death. Planning for what is inevitable for all human being can be a significant spiritual experience for you and also a gift of love for your family and friends.

As part of our shared ministry of care and nurture for one another in Christian community the church will offer a planning workshop on April 21 after the Community Potluck. In this "Witness to the Resurrection" workshop you will have an opportunity to think about, plan, and receive checklists for you to use so that your family will know your wishes. As you reflect upon your life, may you embrace even more deeply the love of God we know in Jesus Christ.

## **Property and Maintenance Announcements**

The P&M Committee is asking everyone using the church during the week to please close the door/s to the room/s you are using when you leave and remember to turn out the lights. Many of the rooms have fire doors and they make it harder for a fire to burn through them. Your help in this matter will be appreciated.

Property and Maintenance will be sponsoring a workday on Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 8:30-12:00. Breakfast foods and drinks will be provided. All help will be appreciated. Please bring lawn tools and equipment that you have that can be used to keep our church grounds looking good. If it rains, the workday will be Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the same time.

## **Attendance for March**

**March 3: 29      March 10: 26      March 17: 25      March 24: 27      March 31:**

## **Report of Session meeting**

The session met on Saturday March 23rd at 1:00. Barbara presented a report from the Presbytery meeting. Highlights of the meeting included information on the new disaster recovery coordinator. Ours is the first Synod to have seen the importance and need to have one. The coordinator will work with the disaster center at Ferncliff. There was also a report on the Sleep in Heavenly Peace project. The Presbytery is funding and members are making beds for children in the Little Rock area who do not have one.

Ivan was accepted into the membership of the church.

Property and Maintenance Committee has installed new laminate flooring in the family room.

A pay raise was approved for Kathie .

A covenant between Mary Jane and the church was approved. Mary Jane will be our CRE (Commissioned Ruling Elder) when she and the covenant are approved by the Committee on Ministry. She will be doing all of the duties that a minister would.

The next stated session meeting will be April 13 at 1:00.

## Prayer Requests From March

Alice D.	Our church, city, and world
Amie S.	The leaders of our city, state, and nation
Amy and Michael M.	People affected by natural disasters
Beth B.	Those trapped in war zones
Billie Ann M.	Peace for those affected by wars
Buck B.	
Chris, Ella, and Isabella S.	
The H. family	
Harper P.	
Jay and Pat H.	
Jeannie P.	
Jeff and Pam S.	
Martha L.	
McKayla and Keith H.	
Michael R.	
Pat and Jay H.	
Paul and Barbara J.	
Ray and Pat G.	
Reed and Bailey H.	
Rob F.	
Sydney C.	
Sylvia S.	
Tom H.	
Toni H.	
Our youth	
Teachers, students, and school workers	
Safety for our first responders	
Safe travel for Glenn	
The leaders of our city, state, and nation	
Unspoken prayer needs	



Nothing Can Separate  
Us From the Love of God  
Romans 8:31-39

**Contact Us**  
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*May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you.  
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out  
your hands to serve.  
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your  
heart to love.  
And as you leave this place, may you see the face of Christ on  
everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face  
of Christ on you.*

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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

*If you are receiving this newsletter by mistake or would rather get one at the church in person, please let us know. If you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter in the mail, please call us at 501-982-2876. God Bless You!*