

Alleluia, Christ is risen!



Death cannot stop the good news. It is alive, unbound, and wild in the world. Like the mustard seed, it grows without limit. Like water turned into wine, it surprises us with joy. Like loaves of bread, it multiplies to feed each hungry soul. And even in the face of death, it will not be buried or silenced. As we celebrate the good news of Easter, let us go out seeking Christ in the faces of neighbors and strangers, and in the good works that are alive in this world.

Reflection questions:

What good, good news do you cling to today?

What feels alive in you?

Where is God dancing, creating, and moving us toward goodness in the world?

Art by Megan

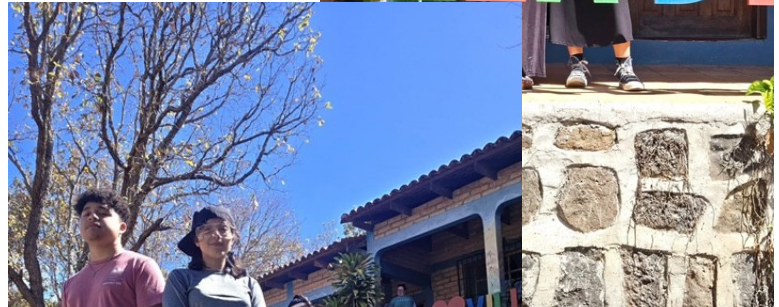
Mary Jane and Karen presented Mary Lee with her Certificate in Ministry from Austin Theological Seminary during worship services on Sunday, March 15. She was also celebrated during the community potluck afterward. Congratulations, Mary Lee!



Billie Ann has moved!

Her new information will be in the updated directory.

If your information has changed, please tell Jennifer.



Jacelynn went to Honduras as part of the Presbytery of Arkansas's Spring Break Mission Trip. The team served at Villa de Gracia, a conference center that hosts retreats, youth conferences, and leadership gatherings.



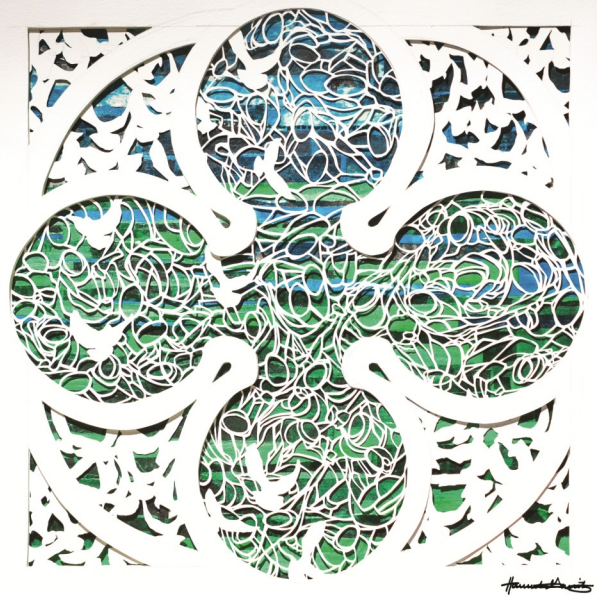
Can You Help?

The Outreach Committee is requesting your help. We currently have three members who have offered to work in the community garden, but we need more help from the congregation. Duties include cleaning up the garden, installing mulch to control weeds between the bins, replacing the soil in the bins, planting, watering, and picking the produce that we donate to the First United Methodist church's community meals and to our neighbors who come for snack bags. Monetary donation for supplies would also be helpful. Without additional help, we will have to discontinue this important mission. Contact Karen if you would like to help in any way.



On March 22, 2026, during worship, our church formally accepted a painting entitled “Communion,” as a gift from Billie Ann. Billie Ann, a long-time member and a talented artist, created this piece of art. “Communion” depicts a pitcher and bread, reminders of the sacrifice made for us by Jesus Christ. This gift was particularly meaningful that Sunday because we celebrated the sacrament as part of our worship.

Billie Ann taught art for years in public schools and privately and encouraged individuals, both professional and amateur. She studied in Mexico in the art colony of San Miguel de Allende after earning her art degree . She also hosted a televised art class. Her art graces walls throughout the world. She loves this church and its members, and gave this treasure to us in response to that love and commitment. We gratefully accept “Communion.”



“Meet Me in Galilee” by Hannah Garrity

Hand-dyed and collaged newspaper with paper lace overlay

“The good news is alive in the world. In this artwork, the crowd is celebrating. Figures are dancing and doves fly among the dancers. Around the dancing figures , patterns of doves disperse outward. The good news is alive in the world!”

Derived from the Artist Statement

*Revealed through
Nonviolence*

by Lauren Wright
Pittman

Begin at the center with Judas's kiss. Follow the sword behind Judas to the top left: a disciple fiercely defends Jesus, while to his right, the high priest's slave screams after his ear is cut. Jesus reproves the violence and heals the servant. Moving clockwise, a man—representing the chief priests and temple police—points an accusatory finger. To his right, a man crafts Jesus' cross. Below him, an

opportunist casts lots for Jesus' clothes, while a leader laughs at the impossibility that the Messiah will save himself. Finally, in the bottom left, a man offers Jesus sour wine in a moment of deep thirst—physical and spiritual.

At the heart of it all is Jesus, tearful, looking at us. His halo shines, revealing the many faces of violence around him. From the foundation of his steady posture grows an olive tree. Its branches extend beyond his clothing, reaching out to embrace those around him.

Through his nonviolent stance, the truth of a violent world is revealed. And in that truth, the good news of peace finds soil in which to take root, to grow, and to flourish.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman



Ministers, Themes, and Scriptures for April

April 5	Mary Jane Easter	Matthew 28:1-10 <i>The good news is...alive in the world</i>
April 12	Ruth from Ferncliff	
April 19	Mary Lee	Acts 2:14, 36-41
April 26	Michael	Psalms 1 Timothy 4:1-10

Attendance for March

March 1: 25 March 8: 25 March 15: 32 March 22: 25 March 29: 20

March Report from the Community Care Room

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

- 274 snack bags
- 80 hygiene packs/individual hygiene items
- 75 pairs of pants or shorts
- 118 shirts, dresses, or hoodies
- 190 items such as socks or underwear
- 2 coats and jackets
- 8 bags or backpacks
- 9 pairs of shoes
- 10 accessories like hats, scarves, gloves, or thermal underwear
- 25 blankets

Thank you for your donations to the Community Care Room. Your generosity makes a difference!

Announcements

The Maundy Thursday service will begin at 6:30. During the service we will focus on the Last Supper when Jesus washed the disciples feet and move to Jesus' last words on the cross.

Bible Study continues on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. The book we are beginning is "Hope: A User's Manual" by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Come and discover what she has to say about hope.

Presbyterian Women's Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 21, at 10:00. Everyone is welcome.

Mary Jane's office hours are Monday and Wednesday, 10-3. If you need to see her at another time, you can call the church office (501-982-2876) or her cell phone (501-240-9012) to schedule an appointment.

Mark your calendars! The church's 100th anniversary celebration is October 10, 2026, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Prayer Requests from March

Barbara H
Ben R and family
Billie Ann M
Carey R
Crystie J
Dianne T
Glenn F
Ichikawa, Takako's mother and family
Ivan
Jacelynn on her mission trip
Jason K
Jim S
Justin D
Katie W
Leeann
Lynette S
Margot S
Matt F
Olivia
Tara G
Toni H
William C

The family of Ben R

The family of Bill F

The Clay family

The families of Patty M and Kathy W

Deployed service members,
including Alex H and Jerry H



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

Contact Us
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firstpcjax@gmail.com

[https://
www.facebook.com/fpcjax/
firstpresjax.com](https://www.facebook.com/fpcjax/)

*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.*

First Presbyterian Church
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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!