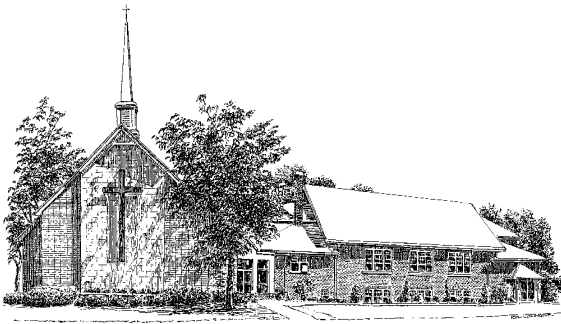


First Presbyterian Church of West Seneca

2085 Union Rd.

West Seneca, NY 14224

716-668-1115



The CELEBRATE April/May 2007

*"We humbly yet boldly step into the future, following
in the footsteps of Jesus on our journey of faith."*

April Highlights

April 1st ~ 10am

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship

April 5th

Maundy Thursday dinner ~ 6pm
Worship service w/ Communion ~ 7pm

April 8th ~ 10am

Easter Sunday Worship Service

April 28th

Garage Sale

May Highlights

May 2nd & 16th ~ 12pm

Young at Heart

May 8th ~ 7pm

Session Meeting

PASTOR'S PLACE

Dear Friends:

By the time some of you read this in the “print” version of the Celebrate, April 1st will have already come and gone. If, by chance, you have come to the web site on the early side, you get this information in a somewhat more timely fashion. In either case I hope the content will find a place of “interest” and “relevance” in your reflective times.

This year Palm/Passion Sunday falls on April 1st and Easter is celebrated one week later on April 8th. Most commonly on Palm Sunday, the church has celebrated the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem just prior to his death. And I would hope that you all know what is celebrated on Easter – the resurrection. As most of you know (but it never hurts to review!) the week between these two events in the life of Jesus is known as Holy Week.

This year I decided, along with the Worship & Music committee, that on April 1st we would definitely have a time when I lead the kids (and some brave adults) around the sanctuary, waving palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna to the King of David.”

But I also decided to return to a reading of the entire Passion narrative as it is given to us in the gospel of Luke. If you are not familiar with the term “passion” in this context, it refers not only to the events that occurred during Jesus’ final week here on earth, but most especially to his “suffering,” which took on many forms – betrayal, mocking, flogging, misjudgment, and, of course, death by crucifixion.

Some have wondered why churches of varied denominations have returned to this practice of reading the entire passion narrative. And the answer is both simple and sad.

When I was growing up, we always had a Maundy Thursday service on the Thursday of Holy Week and either had our own Good Friday service or participated in an ecumenical service. Most people heard the entire story that begins with Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and “finishes” with the celebration of the resurrection on Easter. Hearing about excitement that moves to suffering that moves to death and then to joyous resurrection in a week’s time was the norm.

But as worship attendance in mainline churches has diminished, with fewer and fewer each year attending the special services of Holy Week, the movement has become more akin to exciting anticipation straight through to the joy of the resurrection. We skip over the pain and the suffering. We miss the “passion.”

For those of us of a certain age, I guess I could say that we know the story, so what’s the big deal? On the other hand, I’m inclined to think that many of our children do not know the entire story. And that many adults are just fooling themselves into thinking that Jesus’ life and even our own lives can be lived between excitement and joy all the time, without getting used to any of the pain. And that’s where I, as a pastor, begin to have a problem. I have yet to meet a person, unless that person lives in a complete fantasy world of spin and denial, that doesn’t spend a decent amount of their life facing up to pain of one kind or another. The events of Holy Week teach us about Jesus, but they also teach us something about ourselves.

Even Jesus, in the garden of Gethsemane, asked God, if it were God's will, to let the "cup" pass from him. In other words, let the cup of suffering pass by. But Jesus surrendered his life and not only endured, but walked right through the pain of his final earthly days. The only path to the joy on the other side was a path that led him straight through the pain. And therein lays a profound teaching and learning for all of us.

The only way to get to the other side of pain, loss, turmoil, discomfort, etc. is to just go right through it. There is no way to bypass or sidestep or hurdle over the rough patches in our lives.

And there is no way that we can make the death of Jesus more palatable. It was a horrific death and he suffered it for us.

Sometimes I think that the least one could do during Holy Week is take some time out on Good Friday and even if one can't attend a religious service, take 10 or 15 minutes to reflect on what Jesus' death means to you personally. Does it even have any meaning for you in this day and age when we try to run from pain and suffering just as fast as we can?

I cannot answer those questions for you. But here is my answer. Every year, once I wrap my head and my heart around how much Jesus suffered on my behalf, the joy of Easter morning is all the sweeter.

So this year we read the passion on April 1st just in case you don't have time for a service at the end of the week and just in case you don't have time to sit back and reflect. May the joy of Easter morning permeate your entire being and help you walk your earthly journey with less fear and more faith!

Happy Easter!

Pastor Herb

FOLLOW THE LECTIONARY

April 2007

<i>April 1st</i>	Luke. 19:28-40 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Isaiah 50:4-9a Ps 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke. 22:14-23:56 (or Luke. 23:1-49)	<i>April 22nd</i>	Acts 9:1-20 Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19
<i>April 8th</i>	Acts 10:34-43 (or Isaiah 65:17-25) Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; (or Acts 10:34-43) John 20:1-18 (or Luke 24:1-12)	<i>April 29th</i>	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30
<i>April 15th</i>	Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 (or Psalm 150) Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31		

May 2007

May 6 th	Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35	May 20 th	Acts 16:16-34 Psalm 97 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26
May 13 th	Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 John 14:23-29 (or John 5:1-9)	May 27 th	Acts 2:1-21; (or Genesis 11:1-9) Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:14-17; (Acts 2:1-21) John 14:8-17, (25-27)

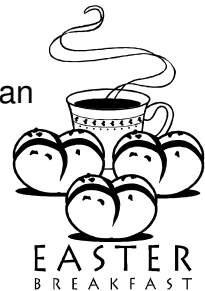
WORSHIP & MUSIC

As we come to an end of the season of Lent please join us on April 1st, Palm Sunday. We will receive palms in church. On Thursday April 5th we will celebrate a Maundy Thursday with a church service at 7:00 pm with communion. Easter Sunday is April 8th and we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with a communion service. We hope you will join us for these special celebrations.
Deb Goggins



EASTER SUNDAY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Come and join us on Easter Sunday after worship for a continental breakfast. There is a sign up sheet in the entryway if you can help out with any donations (i.e. baked goods, juice, fruit, etc.). We hope to see you all there.
Thank you
Dawn Corless



YOUNG AT HEART

There will be no lunches in the month of April be sure to join us again on May 2nd and May 16th for our regularly scheduled luncheons.

CHURCH & SOCIETY

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

The 2007 Interfaith Hospitality Network hosting schedule is out. We will support Orchard Park Presbyterian on the following dates:

June 16th – 23rd

September 1st – 8th

November 17th - 24th

As you can see, we have several holidays this year – Labor Day and Thanksgiving (however, we did not get Christmas), so we definitely need extra help during the year. The families as well as Diane Molnar and Barb Kissel really appreciate your help.

Please remember, there are times it is necessary to change the hosting date. The revised/correct date will be reported in the bulletin.

UPDATE ON HOLIDAY MISSIONS: A little late but thank you so much for supporting the Angel Basket with our donations of hats, mittens, etc. These items went to City Mission and Cornerstone Manor. Also, thanks for helping to make an extra special Christmas for a local family.

UPCOMING SEMINAR

You are invited to hear Tony & Peggy Campolo on Thursday, April 26th. The program entitled “Two Sides of a Christian View of Homosexuality: A Dialogue between Tony & Peggy Campolo” is being offered at North Presbyterian Church. There is a supper at 6pm and the program begins at 7pm. The requested donation is \$10/adult, \$25 maximum/family or \$5/person for the lecture only. For information & Reservations call 632-1330. Childcare is available if requested with reservation.

FISCAL FACTS

February 2007			
Church Assets as of January 1		\$95,788.89	
Church Assets as of this month		\$93,217.82	
Operating Budget	Year to Date	Budgeted to Date	Difference
Pledges	\$14,236.00	\$14,733.00	(\$497.00)
Loose Offering	\$347.04	\$800.00	(\$452.96)
Initial Offering	\$194.00	\$150.00	\$44.00
Per Capita Offering	\$704.00	\$1,500.00	(\$796.00)
Miscellaneous	\$1,134.00	\$833.33	\$300.67
Roll over from previous year	5,124.49	5,124.49	0
Total Income	\$21,739.53	\$23,140.82	(\$1,401.29)
Presbytery Related Mission	\$0.00	\$435.00	
Per Capita Apportionment	\$0.00	\$880.00	
Salaries & Session Misc.	\$6,395.17	\$6,203.00	
Pastor Related	\$6,127.13	\$6,558.53	
Faith Education	\$0.00	\$51.67	
Young at Heart	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Worship & Music	\$61.50	\$53.33	
Church & Society	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Membership & Evangelism	\$0.00	\$124.00	
Stewardship Expenses	\$0.00	\$33.33	
Office Expenses	\$864.75	\$653.33	
Building Costs	\$5,600.83	\$2,761.67	
Total Expenses	\$19,049.38	\$17,629.87	
Difference	\$2,670.15		
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Non Budgeted Items	Year to Date		
Income	\$183.15		
Memorials	\$0.00		
Missions	\$354.00		
Faith Ed. Offering Expenses	\$0.00		
Youth Fellowships	\$0.00		
Miscellaneous	\$17.88		
Total Expenses	\$371.88		
Difference	(\$188.73)		
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Yearly Savings Gain or Loss	\$0.00		
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Capital Fund Drive Income	\$52.00		
Capital Fund Drive Expenses	\$0.00		
Capital Fund Drive Balance	\$3,532.96	Per Capita	\$37.00

APRIL 2007

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1 10am Worship Faith Education 11am Fellowship 11:30am Deacon's Meeting <i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i>	2	3	4	5 Maundy Thursday 6pm Dinner Worship w/ Communion 7pm	6	7
8 10am Worship w/ Communion 11:30am Continental Breakfast <i>Easter Sunday</i>	9 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15 10am Worship Faith Education 11am Fellowship	16	17 Session Meeting 7pm	18	19	20	21 Presbytery Day 8:45am Registration
22 10am Worship – Rev. Lance Brown preaching Faith Education 11am Fellowship	23	24	25	26	27	28 Garage Sale 8:30am – 2pm
29 10am Worship – Rev. Amy Jelensperbger preaching Faith Education 11am Fellowship	30 Faith Education Meeting 7pm					

- Please note that Corinne, our secretary, will be on vacation April 6th –13th.
- Pastor Deb will be away from April 22nd – 30th if you need pastoral assistance please call the church office.

MAY 2007

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2 Young at Heart Luncheon 12pm	3	4	5
6 10am Worship w/ Communion Faith Education 11am Fellowship	7	8 Session Meeting 7pm	9	10	11	12
13 10am Worship Faith Education 11am Fellowship <i>Mother's Day</i>	14 Monday Night Adult Forum & Discussion Group 7pm	15	16 Young at Heart Luncheon 12pm Worship & Music Meeting 7pm	17	18	19
20 10am Worship Faith Education 11am Fellowship	21 Monday Night Adult Forum & Discussion Group 7pm	22 Presbytery Meeting @ Youngstown Presb. 4pm	23	24	25	26
27 10am Worship Faith Education 11am Fellowship <i>Pentecost Offering</i>	28 <i>Memorial Day Church Office Closed</i>	29	30	31		

In The Life of The Church

APRIL & MAY BIRTHDAYS

April	2 nd	Pat Young
	6 th	Harold Hanna
	16 th	Sarah Wurl
	18 th	Joe Shriver
	19 th	Jim Kester
		Jim Reed
	21 st	Debbie Goggins
	22 nd	Amanda Asytk
	23 rd	Mary Cotter
	25 th	Ali Lesakowski
	29 th	Matthew Komnaski
	30 th	Greg Goggins

May	1 st	Ruth Long
		Matthew Partacz
	2 nd	Judy Gray
		Bernie Perillo
	3 rd	Leanne Wurl
	4 th	Joe Corless
	7 th	Karen Messore
	7 th	Craig Wright
	8 th	Shaun Wilson
	12 th	Trisha Duderewicz
	14 th	Chris Orefice
	15 th	Dennis Fiegl
	16 th	Gregg Stoklosa
	26 th	Jim Pagliaccio

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bill Baco (Sandy Pakenham) ♦ Matt Bove (Richard Jones) ♦ Caryn Brown (Leona Wojcik) ♦ Clara Cieslinski ♦ Kathy Miler Colmerauer (Jane Lankes) ♦ Dan & Judy Cravotta (Janice Jones) ♦ Steve Dalin (Karen Cieslinski Dalin) ♦ Pauline Deletti (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Linda Dories (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Lorraine Fularon (Cheryl Wliczak) ♦ Jessica Grazen (The Fischers) ♦ James Groves (Nancy Lesakowski) ♦ Ed & Dorothy Gutowski (Ed Gutowski) ♦ Harold Hanna ♦ Nancy Hay ♦ Janet H. (Nancy Galley) ♦ Esther Hiller (Sandy Pakenham) ♦ Jill Miller-Kisker (Jane Lankes) ♦ Ben Klinshaw (Rita Hanna) ♦ Marguerite Kobel (Dennis Fiegl) ♦ Lee Kruszka (the Fischer's) ♦ Lynn Labby (Marion Labby) ♦ Sibby Mielcarek (Marge Christmann) ♦ Josh Miszko (Sue Piersa) ♦ Sandy Northem ♦ BJ Rustic ♦ Bill Seifert ♦ George Shaffer ♦ Paul Sipos (Sue Maciejewski) ♦ Joan Shockey (Dennis Fiegl's sister) ♦ The Weez (Dennis Fiegl) ♦ Aaron Miechurski (The Halligan's) ♦ Kyle James Smyntek (The Fiegl's) ♦ Partick Weir (Sandy Pakehnam))

BJ Rustic and her family as they mourn the death of her brother Andrew Derrick



Chris Kalinowski ⊕ Matthew Jones ⊕ Bill Cenknor Jr. ⊕ Patrick Baskerville ⊕ Sammy Russo ⊕ Kimberly Trudeau ⊕ Steve Odebralski ⊕ Jason Zimmerman ⊕ Andrew Zalikowski ⊕ Nick Turvey ⊕ Kristen Pelc ⊕ Ben Schauss ⊕ Phillip Schott ⊕ Josh Winkler ⊕ Russell Molnar ⊕ Pat McCullough ⊕ Ryan M. Ratigan ⊕ Larry Lloyd ⊕ Joshua Feldman ⊕ Dan Dudziak

Easter Crosses

Make this craft to remember what Jesus did for us. Hang it in your room to look at all year long.



What you need:

- Two 8" paper plates (white)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Crayons, paints or felt markers
- Stapler, glue stick or glue
- Paper punch
- Yarn, string or ribbon (about 10" or 12")



What you do:

1. With your pencil draw a slight curved line all the way across the center of one plate. This will be a hill.

2. Draw three crosses on the hill. Make the center one a little bigger than the others.



3. Color the hill green and the crosses brown. Or color the hill and crosses black to look like a silhouette.



4. Cut out the hill and crosses as one piece.



5. Color the top half of the other plate with red, orange and yellow to look like an evening sky.

6. Staple or glue the hill-and-crosses plate onto the sky plate. Make sure you line up the bottom edges of the plates, and staple or glue just along the curved edges where the plates meet.

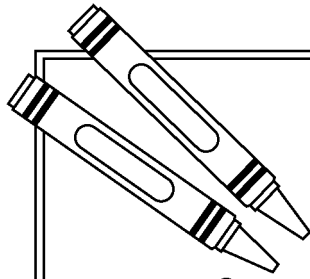
7. Punch a hole near the top of the sky plate.



8. Tie a loop of yarn, string or ribbon through the hole.



9. Hang your scene on your doorknob or on something else in your room.



Just for KIDS

Something Important to Remember Always

Romans 5:8, NIV, tells us how great God's love is for us. Use the grid to complete this verse.

		a	b	c		
1		F	U	N		
2		♥	B	♥		
3		M	V	H		
4	♥	♥	A	W	O	♥
5	♥	♥	♥	G	♥	♥
6		E	T	C		
7		L	♥	R		
8		♥	D	♥		
9		I	♥	S		

“
 2b 1b 6b 5b 4c 8b 8b 6a 3a 4c 1c 9c 6b 7c 4a 6b 6a 9c
 3c 9a 9c 4c 4b 1c 7a 4c 3b 6a 1a 4c 7c 1b 9c 9a 1c
 6b 3c 9a 9c : 4b 3c 9a 7a 6a 4b 6a 4b 6a 7c 6a
 9c 6b 9a 7a 7a 9c 9a 1c 1c 6a 7c 9c , 6c 3c 7c 9a 9c 6b
 8b 9a 6a 8b 1a 4c 7c 1b 9c ”

ANSWER: "BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS: WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US."

The Celebrate
is published by
First Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church
2085 Union Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224
Office hours: 9:00am-1:00pm
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.
Office: 668-1115
Fax: 668-1115
Email: office@wspres.org
Web address: www.wspres.org

Rev. Debra Wright.....Pastor
George Shaffer.....Clerk of Session
Donna Cieslinski.....Church Treasurer
Edie Fischer.....Financial Secretary
Bob Barnhart.....Property Manager
Corinne Northem.....Secretary
Sue Maciejewski.....Organist/Choir Director
Pam Miszko.....Custodian

Elders		
Class of 2008	Class of 2009	Class of 2010
Bob Barnhart	Tom Kalinowski	Dawn Corless
Karen Malyszka	Shaun Wilson	DebbieGoggins
Kathy Saeli	Wendy Warren	Erik Rowe

Deacons		
Class of 2008	Class of 2009	Class of 2010
Sandra Fiegl	Craig Wright	Denis Fiegl
Lisa Shriver	Bruce Barrows	Richard Jones