

Dear friends in Christ,

On behalf of all of us who are First Presbyterian Watertown I am pleased to invite you to join us this Holy Week and Easter as we once again trace Jesus' steps from palms, to cross, to empty tomb and resurrection glory!

Our observance of Holy Week begins on April 2 with **Palm Sunday** worship at 10am. It has been a custom in the Church for many centuries to read the entire Passion Narrative on Palm Sunday, a patch-work of gospel readings that recount Jesus' final days on earth. We will once again take part in this custom and the readings will be accompanied and interpreted for us by wonderful music, poetry, and prayer. The Chancel Choir will lead us in familiar and beloved hymns, the Handbell Choir will ring out to God's glory, and Carl and I will close the service with the second movement of Dmitri Shostakovich's second piano concerto.

During Palm Sunday worship we'll also bless our *40 Cans for Lent* food drive, so please remember to bring in your donations!

We gather next on April 5 at 8am for a **Fellowship Breakfast** for the entire congregation where I will offer a Bible and theological study entitled, "Why God Died." Theories of the atonement - the reason 'why' Jesus died - have been fluid throughout the history of the church. Did Jesus die in our place in the hands of an angry God? Was Jesus' death the final blood-sacrifice to satisfy the Old Covenant? Did Jesus simply meet an all-too-common end at the hands of a corrupt government? This is a heavy topic, indeed, but I hope you will join me for a morning of learning, good food, and fellowship.

On **Maundy Thursday**, April 6, we will gather for worship at 7pm. Worship on Maundy Thursday begins with joy and celebration as Christ gives us the greatest mandate of all - mandate in Latin is *mandatum* - to 'love one another as I have loved you.' Jesus demonstrates this love in washing the feet of the disciples, which we will practice together, and then at the open table where he shares his body and blood.

But following the holy meal, the shadows of Holy Week begin to lengthen. Judas betrays. Darkness enters the world as Jesus is arrested, stripped of his glory, and then condemned to death.

We mark the final hours of Jesus' life on **Good Friday**. There will be a community Cross Walk starting at 8:45am at St. Patrick's Church and then a solemn service of worship in our sanctuary at 12pm.

And then for a while, all is silent. As Natalie Sleeth wrote in *Hymn of Promise*, "In our death, a resurrection; at last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

Then, as the sun rises on the first day of the week, we shout, "He Is Risen!" on **Easter**, April 9. Our celebration of the resurrection begins at 8:30am with Morning Prayer and Holy Communion on the labyrinth on the south lawn; if the weather does not cooperate, we'll move to the chapel. This is followed at 9am with a come-and-go brunch in Fellowship Hall and traditional Easter worship at 10am. Our musicians will be joined in worship by *Molto Brass* and we'll once again 'flower the cross.' For flowering the cross, please plan to bring a small bouquet of flowers, or greens from your yard, which we'll add to the cross in the sanctuary and watch it come to life! After worship there will be an Easter Egg hunt for our young disciples, this year with an interesting twist to make it even more fun!

As we recreate and reenact the final week of Jesus' life, I pray that we are touched once again as a community by the tremendous depth of God's love for us. I look forward to spending this holy time with you!

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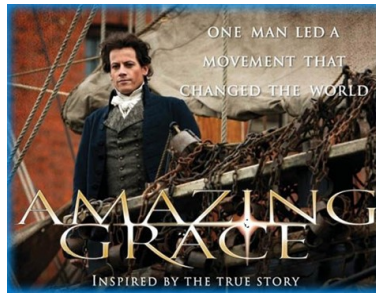
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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY
9:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.



**To finish our worship series on "Amazing Grace"
join your church family for a potluck movie night!**

**Wednesday, March 29
5pm**

"Amazing Grace" follows the story of William Wilberforce and depicts the true events of the fight to abolish the slave trade in England. We also hear of the remarkable conversion of John Newton, a former trader, into an abolitionist and author of this celebrated hymn.

*Bring a dish to pass - table settings and beverages will be provided.
Childcare will also be available.*



**Please bring your items to church by Palm Sunday, April 2,
when they will be blessed during worship. As you collect one
item per day during the season, remember the many blessings
you have received from God!**



April 1	John Stirling	April 21	Emily Sprague
April 3	Bob Gorman	April 21	David Hodge
April 3	Bettina Rutigliano	April 23	Lynn Pyke
April 4	Deanna Nelson	April 24	Betty Vollrath
April 5	Peter Thomas	April 24	John Tinsley
April 6	Maureen Gorman	April 25	Roger White, Jr.
April 8	Donna Dayger	April 25	Meredith Bonisteel
April 8	Brie Thomas	April 27	Peter Salmon
April 9	Day Hills	April 27	Melissa Elmer
April 10	Charles Kimball	April 27	Ella Walton
April 10	Malory Saki	April 28	Mariana Hiotis
April 11	Scott Green	April 29	Frost Haviland
April 13	Michael Green	April 29	Elsa Gleason
April 14	Bunny Gorman	April 29	Ezra Gleason
April 18	Ana Valik	April 30	Bob Sturtz



**Join Pastor Andrew for a morning of study, fellowship,
and great food as we think about, "Why God Died."
April 5th, 8:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall**

Jesus' crucifixion is a central part of Christianity, but *why* Jesus died is anything but simple to explain. Did Jesus die as a scapegoat (Scapegoat Theory)? Did Jesus die to appease the Father's wrath (Penal Substitutionary Atonement Theory)? Did Jesus die as a demonstration of love for us to follow (Moral Exemplar Theory)? Atonement theories try to make sense of Jesus' death and explain salvation in different ways.

**EASTER
EGG HUNT!**



The CE committee is pleased to announce we will once again have our **Easter Egg Hunt** in the Sanctuary and Narthex after church on Easter Sunday. This year the eggs will be extra special. Each egg will be filled with a penny. After the hunt kids will be invited to take all the pennies collected and donate to a local charity basket of their choosing. After they have distributed their coins, they will receive a goodie bag.

Charities we have chosen for this event are SPCA, Children's Miracle Network, Thompson Park Zoo, and MELT. The CE committee will match the pennies to donate up to \$50 for each charity. Parents are encouraged to join us in the fun of teaching our children how to give back to our community.

Spring Greetings!

Presbyterian Women will be gathering for our first meeting of 2023! We hope you will be able to join us on Thursday, March 23rd. at Stone Presbyterian Church, on Chestnut St., The meeting portion to begin at 11am and lunch to follow. Bring your own sandwich and soup will be provided. Bring an example of your favorite craft, hobby, or collection, to share; whatever your passion!

Feel free to bring along a friend from church who may not have joined us before. Please let me know if you need a ride. 315-778-4843.

**Spring blessings,
Mo Gorman**

Pastor Andrew and his family will be on vacation April 10-17, with Pastor Andrew back in the office on April 18. During this time, please call the church office with any pastoral needs or emergencies.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Join us for
SUNDAY WORSHIP AT
10:00 A.M.

Listen on your radio
WATN 1240AM or
watch the service live from
www.watertownfirstpres.org
or

www.facebook.com/watertownfpc

If you miss a week of worship it is just a click away.
just visit our website at www.watertownfirstpres.org.

amazing
GRACE

*“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!”*