



Easter People...

As darkness gives way to dawn this Lenten season, we find ourselves at a crossroads of reflection and anticipation. Some years, Lent feels like a balance between feasting and fasting, and it is easier to remember that death doesn't have the last word. Other years, this time of focus on our mortality and need for repentance feels just right. It reminds us that we can't fix it all – but we know the One who is working to make all things whole. If you are in that place this year, take comfort that you are not alone. One reason we observe these 40 days of preparation is to be reminded that Jesus suffered all the emotions we feel, and he knows our heart's cries.

In John's telling of Easter morning, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb alone – while it was still dark (John 20:1). While it was still dark, while she still grieved, while she had no hope, she went to the tomb to do what she could to honor her teacher, her Savior. She didn't know what the angels later told her – that Jesus was alive. And yet, she came, drawn to the last place she had seen Jesus.

When life is hard, when things are happening beyond your control, look for Jesus, in the places you have found him before – in worship, in the faces of your neighbors, in the flowering trees. We have an advantage over Mary; even when it is still dark, we know that Jesus is alive – and is with us. That's what makes us Easter people – even when our prayers haven't been answered in the ways we hope, we can still find comfort. We carry the realized hope of Jesus, the Resurrected Savior. Our prayer for you as we move toward Easter is that you will find that hope, that it will sustain you, and that you will share it with others who are still wandering in the dark, desperately seeking.

Blessings,
Your Pastors



Radiance Giving

Giving: Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry of our church. If you wish to give an offering, you may do so by placing it in the offering plate during the service, via mail, electronically through your bank or our website, <https://bit.ly/givingrcc>

You may also donate by scanning our QR code:



Recipes Needed...

The Evelyn Townsend Mission Circle is planning a project that will involve the entire church. We want to put together a cookbook with recipes shared by you and then sell them. Submit your favorite recipes, and include some information about them - maybe it came from your grandmother or your favorite aunt? Perhaps you tweaked some ingredients that made it especially popular for you and your family? Categories include: Appetizers, Breads, Salads, Soups, Side dishes, Main dishes, Desserts and Miscellaneous. You may also include bible verses, jokes, or sayings that are meaningful to you. (Example: "Exercise Daily-Walk with the Lord!") We hope this will be a way for us to continue getting to know one another. We plan to use the proceeds to help provide food for our Blessings Box and other church mission programs. A basket will be in the foyer during April and May for you to place your recipes, which will be sorted and assembled for printing during the summer and the cookbook will be ready for sale this Fall.



Thank you from Debbie...

"Thank you to everyone that came to my retirement celebration! Thank you for all the cards, gifts, and well wishes! I truly appreciate all of your kindness!"

Thank You!

Holy Week Schedule

- **Palm Sunday**, April 13, 10:30 am: Join us as we celebrate the King of Kings with a palm procession and prepare our hearts to enter Holy Week.
- **Maundy Thursday**, April 17, 7:00 pm: We are joining Colonial Presbyterian Church in their sanctuary as we celebrate the Lord's Supper and turn toward the cross.
- **Good Friday Nature Walk**, April 18, 11:30 am: We will walk through the Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden and meditate on Jesus' love and sacrifice. We will have prayer guides for children, youth, and adults. Meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 to carpool and bring a picnic lunch.
- **Resurrection Celebration**, April 20, 10:30 am: Come celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with us! Bring cut flowers and greenery to help us decorate the cross as a symbol of new life in Jesus!

Easter Offering: This year, we are collecting an Easter Offering for Local Missions. Our goal is to collect \$500 that will be used to support local ministry partners, as well as projects of our own. We also have a special Lenten giving calendar that will help us practice mindful awareness of our material blessings and challenge us to sacrificial giving. These calendars, as well as special offering envelopes will be available on the table in the foyer.



Radiance Kids

- Parents, we love having your children in worship with us. Worship bags are provided in the foyer, and there are books on the faith lending library bookshelf that you are welcome to choose from as well. After the Word for All Ages, children may go to children's church if they wish.
- Our **"Walk Through Holy Week"** for our Radiance Kids will be **Sun., April 13**, at 11:45 am. We'll have lunch together, followed by learning about Holy Week, Jesus' death and his resurrection through story, craft, and games. We'll end our time with an egg hunt and be done by 1:30 pm.

Radiance Youth

- Join us for Youth Dinner and Discipleship on Sundays from 5-7 pm. We'll continue our Lenten study, "Take Up Your Cross." If you would like to provide dinner for our Sunday night youth gatherings, please sign up at: <https://bit.ly/rccyouthsuppers>. We eat at 5:30 pm, and it's best to prepare for 8-10 people.
- Thank you to the 8 youth who participated in Mission Madness last month! We had a great time worshipping and serving with almost 250 people from around Virginia! We celebrated 15 years of CBFVA Mission Madness -15 years of students from around our state sharing God's love! Our group helped a local church prepare for some of the community outreach they do - cleaning a trail that will be open to the community, clearing closets of supplies so they can see what they have for their drive-through Easter story (and make the fire marshal happy with cleared out spaces), and cleaned and organized the children's ministry space used for their after school care program.

Meetings This Month

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| • Friday, April 11, 6-8 pm | Administrative Council & Missional Business Services |
| • Saturday, April 12, 9 am-12 pm | Administrative Council & Missional Business Services |
| • Monday, April 14, 12 pm | Evelyn Townsend Missions Circle Meeting |
| • Sunday, April 27, 2:00 pm | Deacons Meeting |

Featured Dates

Wednesday, April 2	Spiritual Formation Class	12:00 PM
	Ministries Council	6:00 PM
Thursday, April 3	Young Adult Bible Study	6:00 PM
Sunday, April 6	Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
	Worship and Communion	10:30 AM
	Youth Dinner & Discipleship	5:00 PM
Wednesday, April 9	Spiritual Formation Class	12:00 PM
Sunday, April 13	Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
	Worship	10:30 AM
	Walk Through Holy Week	11:45 AM
	Youth Dinner & Discipleship	5:00 PM
Monday, April 14	Evelyn Townsend Circle	12:00 PM
Wednesday, April 16	Spiritual Formation Class	12:00 PM
Sunday, April 20	Happy Easter!	
	Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
	Worship	10:30 AM
Wednesday, April 23	Spiritual Formation Class	12:00 PM
Sunday, April 27	Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
	Worship	10:30 AM
	Deacons Meeting	2:00 PM
	Youth Dinner & Discipleship	5:00 PM



Opportunities for Bible Study

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** is a great way to connect with God and with our church family! We have classes for all ages each week from 9:30-10:15 am.
 - **Lenten Spiritual Formation Group:** Rev. Steven Harris is leading a midweek Lenten study, "We Shall Be Changed," on Wednesdays at noon, both in person in the conference room and on Zoom <https://bit.ly/rcccbiblestudy>. Each week, the study will explore a scripture passage in which God challenges us to change. An audio recording of the study is also available each week. You can find them here: <https://bit.ly/rcclentenstudy>.
 - **First Thursdays Young Adult Dinner & Bible Study.** Young adults (18-30) are invited to join us at 6:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month for dinner and Bible study, hosted by Pastor Melissa & Ric.
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- **Book and Magazine Collection:** The Evelyn Townsend Circle is collecting books (both paperback and hardback) and magazines for the Roanoke City Jail library and for TAP. Please place your donations in the appropriate box in the foyer.
 - **Keystone Community Center Easter Food Boxes:** We are collecting food for Easter food boxes that will be distributed by Keystone Community Center. A list of needed items is available on the table in the foyer or by contacting the church office. Donations should be returned by April 6.
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Sound/Video Volunteers

Looking for a place to serve? With the installation of our new sound and video equipment, we are in need of volunteers to help during our Sunday worship time. Volunteers will be on a rotating basis and serve as a backup to our existing team. Please let the church office know if you are willing to serve in this capacity. We will be arranging a training session in the next few weeks. Thank you!



AUDIO-VISUAL
---team---

Prayer Concerns

- Those who are homebound or in retirement/nursing homes: Jim Bryant, Jane Byrum, Virginia Draper, Mary Durrer, Buddy Hawkins, Janet King, Nadine Minnix, Shirley Moore, Cheryl Nicely, Betty Obenchain, Louise Parris, Betty Payne, Becky Peyton, Jack Pilcher, Evelyn Ragland, Alice Scogin, Anna Mae Smith, Joe St. Clair
 - Those with cancer including Linda Dwyer, Billy Foutz (Debbie Foutz' father), Doug Hicks (Kathy Kinsey's brother), Barbara Kern, Susan Chambers Lasher (friend of Mary Ellen Gearhart), Penny Long (Bob Crawford's sister), Wayne Simmons (cousin of Vilas Secrist & Linda Dwyer), Lolly Quigley (friend of Amy Grant, Dabney Ward, & Louise Conner), Betsy White (Joyce Waugh's niece), Carolyn Young
 - Sally Crawford, continuing rehab at home
 - Vilas Secrist, recovering at home
 - Linda Murray's sister, Valerie Opsitnick, who is awaiting neck surgery & is in a great deal of pain
 - Barbara Alberse, friend of the Kinseys, who has entered hospice care
 - Pete Alberse, the Kinseys' brother-in-law, recovering from the removal of a tumor
 - Bobbie Hawkins & family, in the death of her brother, George Carden,
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Worship Leadership Schedule

April 6

- **Greeters:** Neal Kinsey, Penny Horsely
- **Scripture Reader:** Judy Conner
- **Offertory Prayer:** Joyce Waugh
- **Children's Worship Leader:** Nancy Vest
- **Offering:** Michael Krawchison, Susan Snyder, Ray Templin, Vicki Wray
- **Deacon Counters:** Glenda Pollard, Joyce Short
- **Communion Prep:** Janice Deyerle
- **Communion:** Janice Deyerle, Paul Howell, Linda Murray, Glenda Pollard, Gordon Williams

April 13

- **Greeters:** Lisa Baker, Nancy Vest
- **Scripture Reader:** Mia Viele
- **Offertory Prayer:** Mary Shirley
- **Children's Worship Leader:** Glenda Pollard
- **Offering:** Jenna Dillon, Alyssa Viele, Kathy Kinsey, Brennon Viele
- **Deacon Counters:** Ray Templin, Becky Beard

April 20

- **Greeters:** Mary Shirley, Gordon Williams
- **Scripture Reader:** Brennon Viele
- **Offertory Prayer:** Judy Conner
- **Children's Worship Leader:** M.J. Fanning
- **Offering:** Gerri Mills, Ric Scott, Mark Smith, Gordon Williams
- **Deacon Counters:** Gordon Williams, Janice Deyerle

April 27

- **Greeters:** Bobbie Hawkins, Vicki Wray
- **Scripture Reader:** Ray Templin
- **Offertory Prayer:** Joyce Short
- **Children's Worship Leader:** Donna Kester
- **Offering:** Janice Deyerle, Susan Snyder, Ray Templin, Vicki Wray
- **Deacon Counters:** Glenda Pollard, Joyce Short



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Our Church Staff:

Rev. Melissa Scott
Pastor

Dr. Steven Pollard
Pastor

Rev. Steven Harris
Minister in Residence

Karen Viele
Church Administrator

Bill Lininger
Music Director



04/02 - Joe Dudley
04/08 - Michael Krawchison
04/25 - Herb McBride
04/26 - Mary Durrer
04/28 - Dabney Ward