



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

Chronicles

April 2019



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Woodbridge, Virginia 22193
703-670-7834

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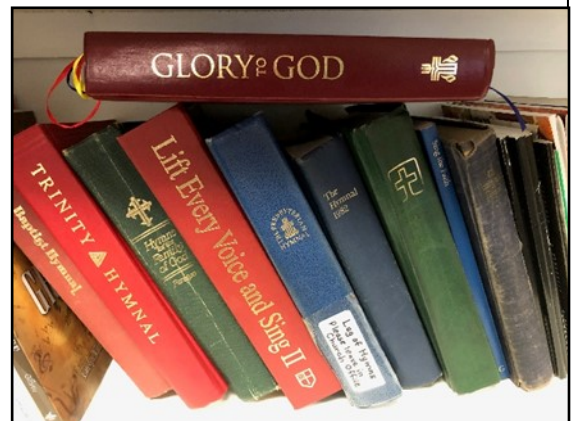
MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ADAM

From Pastor Adam...

Why Another New Hymnal?

What Stays? What Goes?

Times change, and trends in hymnody along with them. Over the century and a half since Presbyterians began singing hymns “of human composure” in worship and not just metered, rhyming versions of the divinely inspired Psalms of David, numerous texts and tunes—like “A Few More Years Shall Roll”—have come and gone. We have wrung out the old in eliminating such once-valued songs as “Ah! Wretched, Vile, Ungrateful Heart;” “How Condescending and How Kind Was God’s Eternal Son;” and “Quiet, Lord, My Froward Heart” (“froward,” the opposite of “to-ward,” once meant something along the lines of “perverse” or turned away from God). Typically, in fact, about half of the contents of one hymnal go by the wayside when its successor comes onto the scene.



But by the same token, about half of the contents remain. Numerous texts and tunes have also come and stayed, gaining such long-lived popularity that since the date of their introduction they have appeared in every subsequent denominational collection of worship songs. “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” cannot be found in the 1874 Presbyterian hymnal, but once it came to light in 1895, it became a constant companion. “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies” made its debut in the 1927 hymnal of the southern Presbyterian church and “Be Thou My Vision,” in the northern church’s hymnal of 1933; we would be unlikely now to have a hymnal without either. “God of Grace and God of Glory” and “I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer Art” made their initial appearances in 1955; “Go Tell It on the Mountain” and “Lord of the Dance,” in 1975; “Here I Am, Lord,” “Lift High the Cross,” and “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” were “new” to Presbyterians in 1990, but are already showing signs of longevity.

A pair of examples helps illustrate why hymn collections benefit from regular processes to (so to speak) wring out the old and ring in the new. Our grandparents or great-grandparents, had they been Presbyterian in either the northern or the southern church, would have likely been familiar with a hymn written by Horatius Bonar, poet and pastor of the Free Church of Scotland, “A Few More Years Shall Roll.”

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Its lyrics call attention to the short time remaining between any of us who are now alive and the day of our inevitable death:

This text appeared regularly—in the hymnals of 1874, 1895, 1901, and 1911—before it disappeared from denominational use.

*A few more years shall roll,
a few more seasons come,
and we shall be with those that rest
asleep within the tomb. . . .*

*A few more suns shall set
o'er these dark hills of time,
and we shall be where suns are not,
a far serener clime. . . .*

The poetry, which continues for another three stanzas, is vivid and artful, but it sounds slightly dated now. The word “clime” is no longer in use, even by hymn poets who need a good rhyming option. The image of “dark hills of time” seems to characterize the present world as exclusively a vale of tears and not also a gift of grace and arena for stewardship and mission. The yearning for “serener” company with those “asleep within the tomb” carries almost maudlin connotations to a twenty-first century ear (or even, apparently, to hymnal committees since the first decade of the twentieth century).

Contrast to this another hymn by the same author. The moving communion text, “Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face,” has appeared in some version in every Presbyterian hymnal since 1895. Sometimes the language is pluralized (“Here, O our Lord”) to make the hymn sound more like the song of a community receiving the Lord’s Supper together than that of an individual partaking alone. Sometimes the pronouns for God are modernized (“we see you face to face”) rather than preserved in the “thee/thou” form of Bonar’s 1855 composition. Never are all eight of the text’s original stanzas included—sometimes only four appear; the Presbyterian hymnals of 1895 and of 1990 both use five stanzas, but a different selection of five. *Glory to God* (2013) follows the pattern of its most immediate predecessor: first-person plural pronouns for humanity (“our/we”), “you/your” pronouns for God, and the same five stanzas as the 1990 hymnal, in the same order.

Such examples of wringing out and ringing in could be multiplied many times over, but the point is sufficiently clear: each generation puts its own stamp onto the hymns it selects for its hymnals. An outgrowth of this generational practice is the tendency of each individual singer to assume that whatever version she or he grew up singing is “the original,” and everything else is a corruption. Such assumptions make intuitive sense—after all, the words and music we learned as children and young adults are “original” for us. In like manner, if we grew up with capital letters for pronouns referring to God, or with an Amen to conclude every hymn, we assume that such features have always been parts of proper hymnody, although in reality, they have not.

We do well to remind ourselves that every hymn was “new” once upon a time; were it not for regular hymnal revisions, our congregation would not have access to such new songs to sing. Our Sunday morning worship would still resound with strains of “Stay, Thou Insulted Spirit, Stay” from the hymnal of 1874, and not “Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me,” which was not written until 1935 and not included in a Presbyterian hymnal until 1990. Or perhaps, instead, without a steady cycle of rejuvenation, the singing of hymns would have narrowed to a smaller and smaller number of eighteenth and nineteenth century favorites until even these classics fell victim to the tedium of overuse.

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Who among us, then, would presume to “quench the Spirit” (1 Thess. 5:19), bolting sanctuary doors against fresh inspiration under the assumption that the old hymns and songs are all we need? The psalmist repeatedly commands us to sing to the Lord a new song (Pss. 33, 40, 96, 98, 144, 149), understanding that our worship can only thus remain faithful to a God who is perennially doing “a new thing” (Isa. 43:19). Every twenty years or so, a church has the opportunity and privilege of reexamining its repertoire of song, making prayerful decisions about what has worn well, what has worn out, and what might wear like a well-crafted and comfortable shoe, carrying current and future generations into the presence of the living God.

Like our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents who lived to see the advent of new hymnals in 1990, 1975, 1955, 1933, and on back into historical memory, we can face such times of transition with eagerness and confidence. We can do so because we firmly believe, to cite A Brief Statement of Faith, that “the same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles” continues to “rule our life and faith.” Or, to borrow words from the closing stanza of the hymn “To Abraham and Sarah (I Will Be Your God)” by Judith A. Fetter that is “new” to Glory to God (2013) but promises—God willing—to be among those that wear well:

*We of this generation on whom God’s hand is laid
can journey to the future secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God’s goodness and trusting in this word,
“That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”*

*Passion for Christ—Compassion for Others
Loving God—Loving Others
Connect—Grow—Serve*



Holy Week Services at FUPCDC

Holy Week services are excellent opportunities to invite a friend to church!

PALM-PASSION SUNDAY – April 14

8:30 AM Potluck Breakfast

9:50 AM Children, Youth, and Choir gather for Palm Processional

10:00 AM One Service



WEDNESDAY – April 17

No Wednesday Night Alive Meal, Worship, or Pastor's Bible Study

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 18

6:00-8:00 PM

Drop-in Small Group Communion

Come to the Triple Room anytime between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM on Thursday, April 18 to experience a small group communion service. Your journey will begin with meditation in the Triple Room. Then, you will be lead into the sanctuary to sit around the Lord's Table. At the conclusion of the brief worship service, you will be invited to leave in silence.



GOOD FRIDAY – April 19

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Sanctuary open for prayer and meditation



EASTER SUNDAY – April 21

8:00 AM Flowering of the Cross

8:30 AM Traditional Service

9:45 AM Children's Easter Activities in the Triple Room

10:30 AM Flowering of the Cross

11:00 AM Contemporary Service



Flowering of the Cross



Everyone young and old is invited to bring flowers or greenery from your garden at home (or from the florist if your garden is not in bloom yet) and place them on the cross that will be located outside near the door as you come to worship on Easter Sunday .

Faithful cross, above all other,
one and only noble tree!
None in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit thy peer may be.
Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 6th century

In spite of its function as a brutal form of execution, the cross stands at the center of our faith as a symbol of life. Saint Paul speaks of the shame of the cross, while Saint John portrays the cross as the principal sign of the glory of Christ, but both recognize that the cross is the source of life. There can be no Easter without Good Friday, no Resurrection without the Crucifixion. Indeed, the cross, rather than the empty tomb, has held the place of honor as the primary symbol of the Christian faith. Christian art certainly has many examples of the cross as an instrument of suffering and death, but some of the earliest depictions of the cross emphasize its life-giving qualities. The flowering cross is found in Christian art as early as the sixth century and is based on a legend that says that the cross itself burst into bloom at the moment that Jesus died. The legend of the True Cross describes how the wood of the cross came from a tree that sprang from a seed taken from the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden.

Easter Customs- <http://fullhomeiydivinity.org>

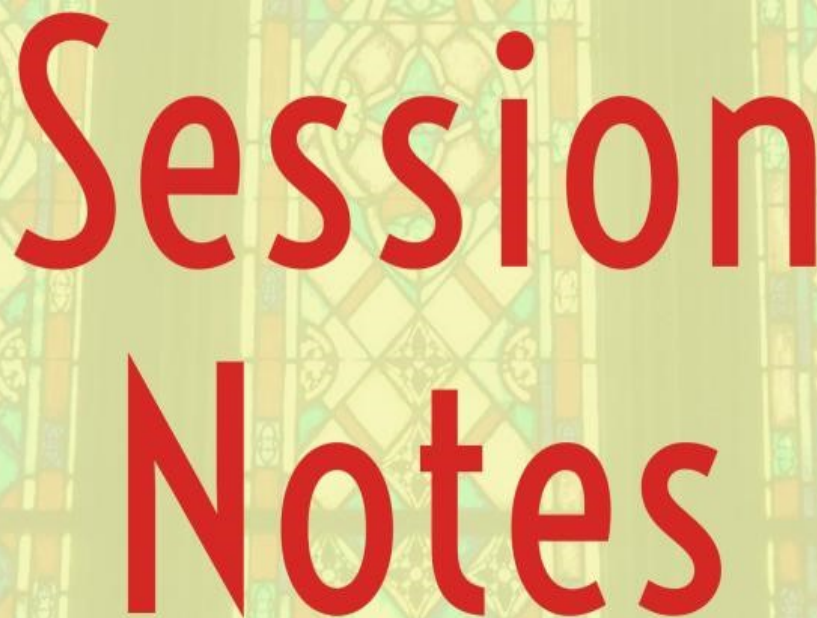


Session Report - March

At the March Session meeting, the Session approved establishing a restricted scholarship fund to allow youth and adults to participate in church-sponsored activities. This would cover situations where lack of funds might prevent someone from being able to participate in a chosen program or activity. This would be a confidential matter.

- ◆ Shallowford Presbyterian Church Youth Choir has been invited to present a concert at the church on Wednesday, June 12. This group from Atlanta will be touring in our area. We will have a pot luck dinner at 6 PM followed by the 60+ voice choir singing at 7 PM. Save the date for this opportunity to support another church in its ministry.
- ◆ The Lumberton Mission trip was allocated a budget of \$1,500 to support their return to North Carolina to help that community recover from recent flood damage. Twelve people will be going from our congregation from May 5 - 10, 2019.
- ◆ Little Hands Preschool's 2019-2020 operating budget was approved, with a target of 60 children to be enrolled. Please spread the word about our respected preschool program and help them reach their goal.
- ◆ A dying tree will be removed from the preschool playground and the playground restored to a safe condition following the removal. Session approved Little Hands funds to cover this project.
- ◆ Session also approved the Safety & Security Committee Charter and the updated Child Protection Policy.

Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session

A decorative background featuring a pattern of stained glass windows in shades of green, yellow, and orange. The text "Session Notes" is overlaid in a large, bold, red font.

Session Notes

Stewardship

WE can support the work of our church through giving of our “time” and “talents”. Although there have been significant developments and progress in many areas, the world still has people who do not have enough food. Hunger remains an issue in many countries of the world. This issue is regularly in the news and we see advertisements on television and in magazines. Rise Against Hunger is one of many programs that works to provide food where most needed. It is a program that many of us may learn more about from the following information.

The **Rise Against Hunger**, formerly called STOP Hunger Now! meal packaging event is the largest mission team our church has ever assembled. People of all ages, from tots to the most senior of us, can gather together to help stamp out hunger. There are no fees required to take part, allowing folks who are trying to watch their spending to be part of this team. Everyone can join in and make a positive contribution. We will join forces with Covenant Presbyterian again this year to strengthen our impact. And it all happens right here in our sanctuary. In just a few hours this intergenerational mission team experiences amazing fellowship while packaging 20,000+ meals that are shipped throughout the world to support school feeding programs, orphanages, and crisis relief. Last year, the meals we packaged went to Haiti. Please plan to participate this year on **April 27th at 8:45-10:00 AM or 9:45-11:00 AM**. Watch for sign-ups in the Narthex Welcome Center on April 7th and 14th.

This month, we have a unique opportunity to work side-by-side with our Sisters and Brothers in Christ to make a difference.

Bless you and thank you for your thoughts, prayers and support.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured to you."
- Luke 6:38



Deacon Report - April

Approaching this task as a forward thinker from here on out. No longer will you see what your Board of Deacons accomplished but instead you'll see what's about to happen.

Come one and all on **April 14th, Palm Sunday**, at **8:30 AM** to the Triple Room for the **Potluck Breakfast** prior to the One Worship Service (10 AM). This is our second potluck this year! The first one was delicious. Please bring a dish to share and join us in food and fellowship. Drinks will be provided.

There will be arts and crafts between services for children of all ages from 9:45 AM to 10:45 AM on April 21st, Easter Sunday with Pastor Adam and the Deacons. All are welcome.

The ministry of a Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ (Mark 9:35). It is the duty of Deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any others who may be in distress. The role of Deacons at FUPCDC is designed to be a ministry of compassion and care manifested by Deacons developing caring relationships with assigned members encouraging those members to be active participants in the life of the congregation. Deacons once ordained or installed serve a three-year rotation with the church. Feel free to reach out to any of the Deacons on the 2019 Board of Deacons with questions or encouragement.

2019 BOARD OF DEACONS A Ministry of Compassion and Service

Class of 2019

Gail Cobb
Claudia Cunningham
Mayra Drayer
Betty Matthews
Denise Parris

Class of 2020

Agnes Fokwa
Lisa Fortner
Kathy McNeely
Carol Schwalm
Celine Sonkwa

Class of 2021

Liz Goolgasian
Peggy Heins
Therese Same
Bob Thompson
Patricia Whitman

Denise Parris, Co-Moderator..... 703-730-3920
Carol Schwalm, Co-Moderator 703-680-7673

**We love to hear from you. If you need to be connected with your Deacon, please contact Denise Parris or Carol Schwalm by calling the number listed above or the Church Office, 703-670-7834.*



DEACONS
Leading through Serving.

Adult Ministry



Worshipping Words – A New Small Group

All adults are invited to drop-in to the new small group called “Worshipping Words” during the Sunday Education Hour (9:45-10:45 AM) in Room 9 to read and contemplate that day’s sermon scripture. Attendees from both the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM services enjoy an enriched worship experience by taking the time to connect personally with the sermon scripture. Come, give it a try!



Our next Fair Share Community Speaker Series on **May 4th** will highlight the Kairos Prison Ministry. We will begin with Lindell Tinsley, the Vice Chair on the Virginia State board for Kairos, followed by testimonies from Kairos team members and inmates who have benefited from the program. The ultimate goal of Kairos Inside is to build a Christian community to pray and fellowship together on a weekly basis by nurturing each other in their faith walk and providing personal accountability. This is the heart of Kairos!

Unlike our other programs, we will begin with a BBQ dinner at 6:00 PM in the Triple Room. The BBQ dinner will be followed at 7:00 PM by our speaker program. Further information on dinner will be forthcoming. Be sure to save the date!

Free of charge – donations only – all benefits going to support Kairos Prison Ministry .



Children's Ministry

Hello Parents! We have important dates to make you aware of, and to mark your calendars: Kidz Church classes will not be held: Sunday, April 14th (One Service at 10:00 AM) and Sunday, April 21st (Easter Sunday).

Children are invited to join our youth and chancel choir for the processional of Palms on Sunday, April 14th. Please see Children's Ministry Elder, Rena Thompson or Pastor Adam, if you would like to have your children participate in the processional. **Please save seat(s) for your children as they will be seated with you during the worship service. The Nursery will be available for infants and children through four years old.**

Kidz Church will end on Sunday, June 9th. As always, the Nursery will be available during the summer.

Vacation Bible Camp (formerly Vacation Bible School) will be: Monday, June 17th - Friday, June 21st. **Please see page 11 for details.**



SAVE THE DATE!

Save the dates for our Summer Vacation Bible Camp: Shipwrecked!

Dates: June 17 - June 21, 2019!

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City, VA invites you to be a part of **Shipwrecked Vacation Bible Camp (VBC): Rescued by Jesus.**"

At Shipwrecked, kids discover that Jesus rescues them! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, and do hands on mission projects. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with the Sail Away Sendoff that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned.

NEW THIS YEAR!

-Full day camp for rising 1st graders through rising 6th graders. Doors will open at 8:30 AM, and the program will go from 9:00 AM till 3:30 PM. Participants will be asked to bring a lunch and snack from home each day of camp. Kids will also be able to choose a themed camp for the afternoon. Examples include baking, music and drama, arts & crafts, woodworking, and more!

-Half day camp for 3 and ½ year olds (potty-trained) through rising Kindergarteners. Doors will open at 8:30 AM, and the preschool program will go from 9:00 AM till 12:30 PM.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

-Please contact Bible Camp Director Ruth Washburg (703-407-3976 or ruthwashburg@yahoo.com), or Pastor Adam (adam.bowling@fupcdc.org) to volunteer. We will have opportunities for the entire church to participate in supporting this new ministry in some way.

Options will include: full day volunteer, half day volunteer, shepherd (non-teaching role), story time (1 hour per day), center leader, center assistant, preschool volunteer, afternoon camp leader, and more!





Little Hands Preschool

A ministry of outreach of the First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City
14391 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, VA 22193



Registration for the 2019 – 2020 is underway!

Our programs serve children ages 2.5 years old – 5 years old.

We offer engaging, compassionate, interactive experiences for preschool children. We have availability in the following programs. All program are offered from: 9:15 AM – 12:15 PM.

- **Early three – year – old classroom sessions meeting on Tuesday and Thursday.
*To be eligible for the early three's class, your child must be three between October 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020.****
- **Three – year – old classroom sessions meeting on Tuesday and Thursday**
- **Three – year – old classroom session meeting on Monday, Wednesday and Friday**
- **Pre – Kindergarten Four – year – old session meeting on Monday – Thursday**
- **Pre – Kindergarten Four – year – old session meeting on Monday – Friday**
- **Pre – Kindergarten Five – year – old session meeting on Monday – Friday**

Please register soon as enrollment is based on availability.

**For more program information, registration requirements or to schedule a classroom visit please visit our website: <https://fupcdc.org/information>.
Or contact Tiffany Ramsey at: 703.878.2366.**

Little Hands Preschool



Thank you to all the parents and students who were able to participate in the Little Hands Preschool Dad's Night!





Thanks for
Eating
More Chicken!



Thank you to all who were able to attend, donate or spread the word throughout the community about our Spirit Night on Wednesday, March 13th.

Wednesday Night Alive Meal - April

3rd- Potluck "Heritage Night" -Bring a dish from your background/heritage"

10th- New England Clam Chowder

17th- NO WNA

24th- Pork Chops with Apples and Cranberries



Wednesday Night Alive begins at 6:00 PM.

STUDENT MINISTRY

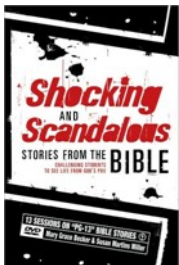


Sunday, April 7—Laser Tag Trip (5:00 – 8:00 PM)

Join your Youth Group friends for a couple of games of Laser Tag and fun! We will meet at church at 5:00 PM, and plan to be back at church around 8:00 PM. Keep your eye out for a flyer and Sign-up form soon. Save the date! Invite your friends!

Sunday, April 14—Help Children with Palm Sunday Processional (9:45 AM)

Meet in the Narthex Welcome Center of the church at 9:45 AM on Sunday, April 14th to help the children of the church with the Palm Sunday Processional! We will supply the Palm branches and give you instructions. #AllAreWelcome



Sunday, April 14—Bread Sunday @ Gilbert's House (6:00 – 8:00 PM)

Join your Youth Group friends for a "Bread Sunday" PG-13 Bible Study with Pastor Adam on Sunday, April 14 from 6-8 PM at the Gilbert's House (4242 Wiltshire Place, Dumfries, VA 22025). Please bring \$3 for dinner, your Bible, a snack and/or drink to share, and a friend! RSVP on Facebook, or by texting Sam (703-946-7226) or Pastor Adam (828-448-8914). Let us know if you need a ride! Hope to see you there.

Saturday, April 20—Mission Project at ACTS (8:30 AM – 1:00 PM)

Meet at the church on Saturday, April 20th at 8:30 AM to head to ACTS for a mission project. Please eat breakfast before you arrive. We will eat lunch out as a group. Please bring \$3 for lunch, a refillable water bottle, and a jacket. Friends are welcome to attend. RSVP on Facebook, or by texting Sam (703-946-7226) or Pastor Adam (828-448-8914). Let us know if you need a ride! Hope to see you there.



Sunday, April 21—No PM Youth Group (Easter Sunday)

Saturday, April 27—Rise Against Hunger Event at FUPCDC

More info coming soon! Save the date!

Sunday, April 28—No PM Youth Group

Mission and Outreach

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

On April 27th at 9:00 AM , we will host the fifth Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event at FUPCDC. Once again, our friends at Covenant Presbyterian Church will join us as we package 20,088! We will package soy, rice, dehydrated vegetables, and a flavoring mix that includes essential vitamins and minerals for shipment throughout the world to support school feeding programs, orphanages, and crisis relief. This promises to be an amazing way for you to connect, grow, and serve. Come sign-up to help with the event setup, event cleanup or one of two packaging times (8:45-10:00 AM or 9:45-11:00 AM) in the Narthex Welcome Center on April 7th, 14th, or 21st.

**"I WAS
HUNGRY
AND YOU GAVE
ME FOOD"**

The Bible
Matthew 25:35

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

THREE WAYS TO GIVE

- 🏠 Through your congregation
- 📱 Text OGH5 to 20222 to give \$10
- 💻 presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

So what is One Great Hour of Sharing? Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Your gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, food for the hungry, and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.



The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People, all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

One Great Hour of Sharing lets us come together to open our door as well as our hearts to share the love of Christ through our ministries of justice, compassion, and joy. It is the church saying, "We'll be there when you need us."

Stay tuned for more information about how you can participate in One Great Hour of Sharing.

"You shall be called repairers of the breach" – Isaiah 58

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 18, 2019

8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Women of FUPCDC

You are invited to attend our second annual

WOMEN'S RETREAT

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

The Reverend Meg Peery McLaughlin

Senior Co-Pastor at Burke Presbyterian Church



~Please make plans to join us~

This newsletter covers events from April 1 through April 30*. The deadline for article submission that will cover May 1 through May 31 will be April 22.

*Exceptions: Save the dates for May Speaker Series (May 4) and Women's Retreat (May 18) and Vacation Bible Camp (June 17)