



# FAITH MATTERS

March 28, 2021

## PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

\*Greetings

\*Call to Worship

(Pastor) *Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry; O Savior meek, pursue thy road with palms and scattered garments strewed.*

(Congregation) **Let the people of God raise their voices, that our Redeemer King might be glorified among and with us, today and always.**

\*Songs

*What a Beautiful Name  
You Are Holy*

\*Invocational Prayer

Scriptures:

***Psalms 118:1-2, 26-29  
John 12:12-16***

\*Hymn #228: *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Musical Meditation

Children's Church - Procession of the Palms

Sermon: ***Triumphal Expectations***

\*Hymn #227: *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

Benediction

Postlude

\*Please stand as you are able.

Hearing assistance devices are available at the A/V Booth.

## THIS WEEK'S MINISTRIES CALENDAR

### Sunday, March 28—Palm Sunday

9:00am: Praise Band Rehearsal  
9:30am: Adult Discipleship Class  
10:30am: Worship Service

### Wednesday, March 31

12:00pm: Faith Matters Newsletter Deadline  
9:30am: Women's Bible Study Fellowship  
10:30am: Women's Bible Study Fellowship  
6:00pm: Property Stewards Meeting

### Thursday, April 1

7:00pm: Maundy Thursday Service

### Sunday, April 4—Easter Sunday

9:00am: Worship Service  
9:30am: Adult Discipleship Class  
10:30am: Worship Service

## YOUTH GROUPS

Students are on Spring Break until April 5<sup>th</sup>. Homework Help and Youth Groups will continue once they are back to school.

## APRIL SCRIPTURE READERS

04.04: Easter 9:00 - Pat Krolczyk  
10:30 - Devin Schweigert  
04.11: Lillie Schmutzler  
04.18: Rachel Nelson  
04.25: Emmy Johnson

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**The Family & Friends of Morris Armbruster**  
(LPCC Director, Sue Johnson's father)  
who died March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Chip Rees** (Dick & Barb's son)  
*Upcoming surgery.*

**Barb Rees**  
*Good results from test.*

**Jane Kuriger**  
*Healing from stroke and pneumonia.*

**Jordan Jacobi** (Joyce Reed's godson)  
*Healing from TCell Lymphoma.*

**Sherif** (Sandra Tillotson's son-in-law)  
*End stage kidney disease & suspected heart attack.*

**Yvonne** (Bev Johnston's daughter)  
*Healing & Salvation.*

***"Whoever observes the wind will not sow; and whoever regards the clouds will not reap."***

*Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NRSV)*

Ask any crop farmer or gardener and they will tell you that there are no guarantees. The unpredictability of weather ensures that you never know quite how your planting and harvest will turn out. Nevertheless, a farmer sows the seeds year after year in uncertainty, hoping and trusting that God's good earth will produce an increase. Likewise, they go out to harvest even when conditions are poor and the yield is uncertain.

If you are a gardener, this time of year you begin to think about what you want to plant in your garden. If you are starting some plants from seeds, you may have already started them indoors. Whether you are getting ready to plant seeds or looking ahead to transplants, a seasoned gardener recognizes that there are no guarantees. Though there is quite a bit we can control in the process of gardening, the weather is not one of them. The seasoned gardener knows that if they want to eliminate any possibility of crop failure, they may as well not plant!

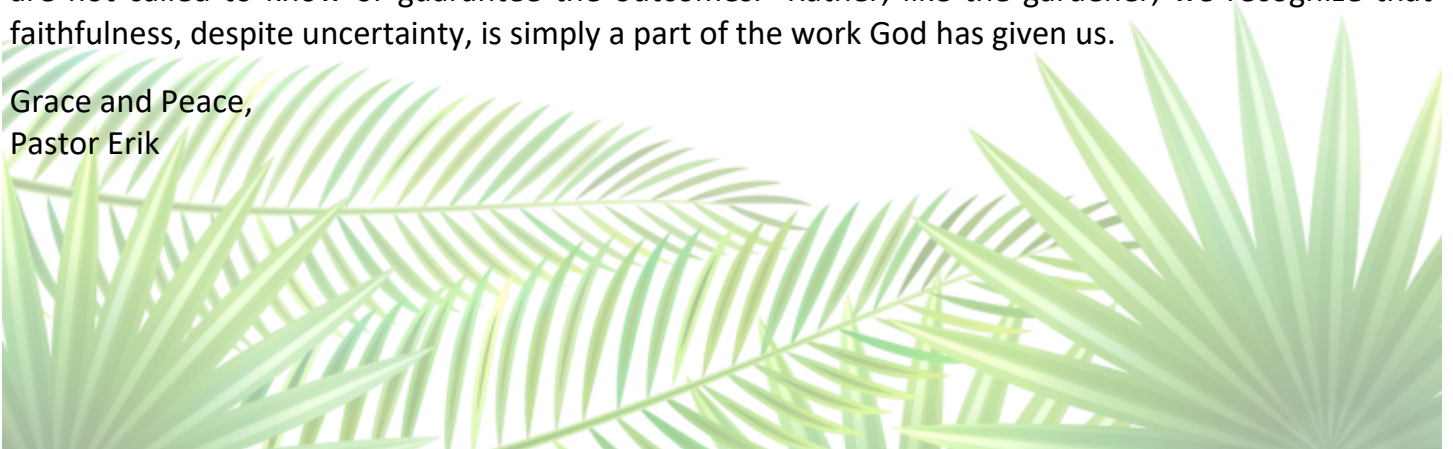
During my years serving in an agricultural community, I also learned that waiting for the ideal time to harvest can be a fool's errand. More than a few times, I've heard of farmers who waited too long for the ideal conditions to get out and harvest. While other farmers had gone out and began to harvest in less than ideal conditions. A few had held out for better days only to find their crops eventually covered in snow and ice because the better days never came.

The practical wisdom offered by the author of Ecclesiastes reminds us that to engage in small-scale gardening or large-scale farming ***is to risk***. *Ecclesiastes wants to remind the sower that they must carry on with planting even if they don't know the future. If they are fortunate to have produced a crop, they must also be willing to jump into the work of harvesting even when things aren't perfect.*

This isn't just good wisdom for farmers and gardeners. We can also apply this to our mission as the Church. Jesus once told a parable of the seeds as a metaphor for spreading the Gospel. In the parable, the seeds are sown widely and they fall in all manner of conditions. At the core of the parable is the same principle found in Ecclesiastes -- we cannot control the environment the gospel is sown into, nor the conditions of the harvest any more than a farmer can. We carry on, we sow seeds, and we harvest as the opportunities present themselves.

The writer of Ecclesiastes points to a paralysis human beings can experience if they are too adverse to risk. The work of sharing the Gospel and making disciples will never be one of guarantees. We are not called to know or guarantee the outcomes. Rather, like the gardener, we recognize that faithfulness, despite uncertainty, is simply a part of the work God has given us.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Erik



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## MAUNDY THURSDAY & EASTER SERVICES

Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, is Maundy Thursday—We will gather for a special service at 7:00pm.

Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, is Easter Sunday—Join us either at 9:00am or 10:30am to celebrate the risen Christ! Reservations are requested (not required) to help us ensure we are prepared. The Nursery will be available at both services. Music in the 9:00am service will be provided by Mert Youngberg and Pastor Erik. The 10:30am service will have the full compliment of musicians, brass instruments, and the Children's Bell choir.

At the 9:00am service, face masks are requested but not required. Once seated and socially distanced, face masks may be removed, if desired. Masks are required at the 10:30am service.

[Email the office](#) or call us to reserve your seat(s): 231.723.7173.

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### WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: *THE HEAVEN PROMISE*

Heaven isn't the construction of a fairy tale or some mythical narrative. It is very real; it is very good; it is very much the fulfillment of God's promise to you. When we think about heaven, eternity, or the afterlife, we often think different things and have contracting opinions. How can you know for sure what heaven will be like? **On April 7<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00pm**, we will begin a Wednesday evening Bible study based on the book, "*The Heaven Promise*" by author Scot McKnight. If you have ever wondered what heaven will be like, or had questions about heaven, eternity, or the afterlife, you will want to take advantage of this Bible Study. Led by Pastor Erik, the study will run for 6-8 weeks. It is not necessary to purchase the book. Everyone is encouraged to attend! If you have any questions, please [email Pastor Erik](#) or call him: 231.887.4619.

### WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

Joyce Reed will facilitate a Wednesday evening prayer meeting beginning at 6:30pm, just before the Wednesday evening Bible Study in the Sanctuary beginning April 7<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome to come and pray with us for each other, the church, and the world.

### MISSIONS - OUR BACKYARD AND BEYOND

The FCC Missions Ministry selected nine nonprofits and three missionaries to support financially for 2021 with 10% of our offerings. In addition to financially supporting these organizations as a church, we also encourage everyone to consider volunteering your time and skills or with in-kind donations as follows:

- Safe Harbor (Homeless Shelter operating October through March) – meals, sleep over, laundry, Gate Keeper, donations of personal and/or cleaning supplies
- ECHO His Love – Sorting donations to Resale Store, food donations or sorting & distributing food for the Manna Food Bank, office work, provide household/clothing donations
- Amory Youth Center (AYP) – Office duties, meal prep for suppers, greeter, supervise youth activities & events, tutoring
- Crossroads Prison Ministry – Review Bible lessons and correspondence with prisoners
- Habitat for Humanity – Cleaning, remodeling the Wagner Senior Center
- Young Life – Mentors & Bible study leaders for youth starting in May
- Faith Family Fashions – Donations of lightly used clothing year round. Contact Julee Malm to confirm specific clothing and footwear needs: 231.889.0297.

The Missions Team is scheduling these nonprofit organizations to give presentations during monthly Sunday morning Missions Moments. They will share how your FCC contribution is helping them provide services to those in need. All of these nonprofits hold annual fundraisers, which they may mention during their presentations or in their materials. However, that is your decision whether to contribute additional amounts directly to that organization.

If you have Missions Ministry questions or suggestions, [email Shellee Seymour](#), Missions Team Leader, or call: 231.398.9254.

## SUNDAY MINISTRIES TO CHILDREN BEGINNING

We are very excited to once again provide Children's Church during the Sunday worship service and to open up our Nursery! This Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday and the children 4 years old through fifth graders will be invited up to the front of the Sanctuary to receive a Palm branch from Mrs. Lee, after which they are invited to go together to Children's Church. They will be learning from the *"I Will Follow Jesus"* story book, and have the chance to do Bible-based activities to help them learn more about Christ and His great love for them! Children will be brought back into the Sanctuary before the worship service concludes. If you would like more information on our FCC Children's Church, please feel free to contact Brooke Lee: 810.813.0766.

For our infants and children to age 4, we will have a staffed nursery available on Sunday mornings beginning Easter Sunday. Sign your child in, and grab a pager from the helpful nursery staff and they will alert you if your child has a need during the morning service. For information on the nursery, or to help volunteer please [email Katie Dye](#) or call the church office: 231.723.7173. More volunteers are needed to help our Sunday services run smoothly and well.

## FCC'S CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

At FCC, all volunteers working with minor children (0-18 years of age) must complete the Volunteer Application and agree to our background check. [Click here](#) to access the Volunteer Application online. Send completed forms to Carolyn in the office. If you have not completed our Child Protection background check, or if you are unsure, please [email Carolyn](#) or call the office: 231.723.7173.

## PROPERTY STEWARDS NEEDED

Team members needed! The Property Stewards will be meeting Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm in Room 2. All who are interested in learning about or joining this ministry are invited! [Email Barry Peterson](#) or call for more info: 231.723.4370.

## SAFE HARBOR UPDATE

From Joyce Reed

Praise God we have only one week to go with our Safe Harbor work for this season! Although I am glad to be finished with the work, there are still 3 guests who haven't found housing, so please keep praying for them. Our church has been a shining example of God's Word in motion. 37 different people have helped this season, some once and others almost every week! As the season comes to a close, we need your help one more time. On Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am, we will be tearing down our equipment and moving it to storage for the summer...on the THIRD FLOOR! Please consider coming to help! We think with enough help we could finish in a couple hours. For more information & to volunteer, call Joyce: 231.510.5475.

## COVENANT HOME ALTAR & DAILY BREAD

Devotional booklets have arrived! Pick up your copy from the Welcome Center or in the Missions literature rack next to the coat closet.

## FCC'S COVID-19 CRITERIA UPDATE

The Leadership Team has updated the criteria to be followed by everyone using the church building: **Groups of 15 people or less may remove masks once everyone is seated and socially distanced 6' or more. Masks are still required for all movement through the building and for groups with more than 15 in attendance. All other criteria remains unchanged.**

## FAITH MATTERS NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Please submit any information you would like included in our newsletter by Noon on Wednesdays.

## OFFICE HOURS

Kate & Carolyn are still mostly working from home, but Kate is in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays, 9:00am-Noon. Please call or email Kate to make an appointment before stopping in.

## GRIEF SHARE MINISTRY AT FAITH COVENANT

GriefShare will begin meeting at FCC in April on Tuesdays, 3:00-5:00pm. Former attendees from Manistee UMC have stepped up to facilitate during the first 13-week class cycle. Please let us know if you would like to help in this ministry. And please help to spread the word about this ministry throughout our community! More information is available on the [GriefShare website](#).

Please feel free to [email Rita Shipman](#) or [email Kate](#) in the office to let us know if you have a desire to be part of this healing journey. The only cost is \$15 when you register. We will have a workbook for each person.



## YOUNG LIFE WILL SOON BE REACHING OUT TO THE YOUTH OF THE MANISTEE AREA

Young Life is a global organization with local focus. You will find Young Life leaders from diverse cultures, nationalities, and backgrounds in over 100 countries around the world. Young Life leaders walk alongside kids and invite them to experience life as God designed it to be lived. Since 1941, Young Life leaders have walked with kids and earned the right to be heard in an exhausting and exciting world. In 2018, 348,000 kids were involved every week all around the world.

This February, we hired our very first Young Life staff person for Manistee County, Luke Trombley! Luke is finishing up his final semester at Northern Michigan University. He met Jesus through Young Life as a high school student in Midland, MI. He has served as a Young Life leader and intern in Marquette, MI as a college student. He was a part of launching Young Life in Marquette and the experience of that will be useful in a new area like Manistee! He has such a heart for Christ and students, and we can't wait for you to meet him. Luke will officially start the beginning of May, when he graduates from Northern Michigan University and moves into town. He is to be featured as our Mission Moment on Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to welcome him to our area, and let him know if you are interested in investing in a young person's life.

The Manistee Young Life committee, which Mary Griffiths has been an active part of, is blown away by God's faithfulness in this process and are praising Him for Luke! We long to hear stories of more kids in Manistee County meeting Jesus Christ. **THANK YOU, FCC**, for being a part of this journey of bringing Luke to Manistee to help launch Young Life! (Erin Wanschura, Regional Director)

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

01 Cathy Ramon	08 Shellee Seymour	24 Dan Broadbent
02 Richard Callesen	11 Edith Minster	26 Olivia Dye
02 Pat Lynett	12 Haley Johnson	26 Linda Kinnan
03 Kevin Hildebrand	13 Cassie Munsell	28 Dennis Fisk
05 Mimi Stansell	14 Scott Gamache	28 Dick Lindberg
06 William Fisk	14 PJ Henderson	28 Chuck Seymour
	14 Linda Rogers	30 Jill Johnson
	15 Carl Warsen	
	16 Ron Miller	
	17 Judy Fredrickson	
	18 Sharon Gates	
	21 Maria Solberg	

## WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAY MORNINGS

**IN-PERSON** worship at 10:30am. (COVID-19 Criteria in effect.)

**WATCH ONLINE** on [FCC's Facebook page](#).

**LISTEN** to the broadcast over FM 105.3 from your vehicle in the church parking lot.

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Devin Schweigert, Youth Director | Cell: 231.286.7751 | [Email Devin](#)