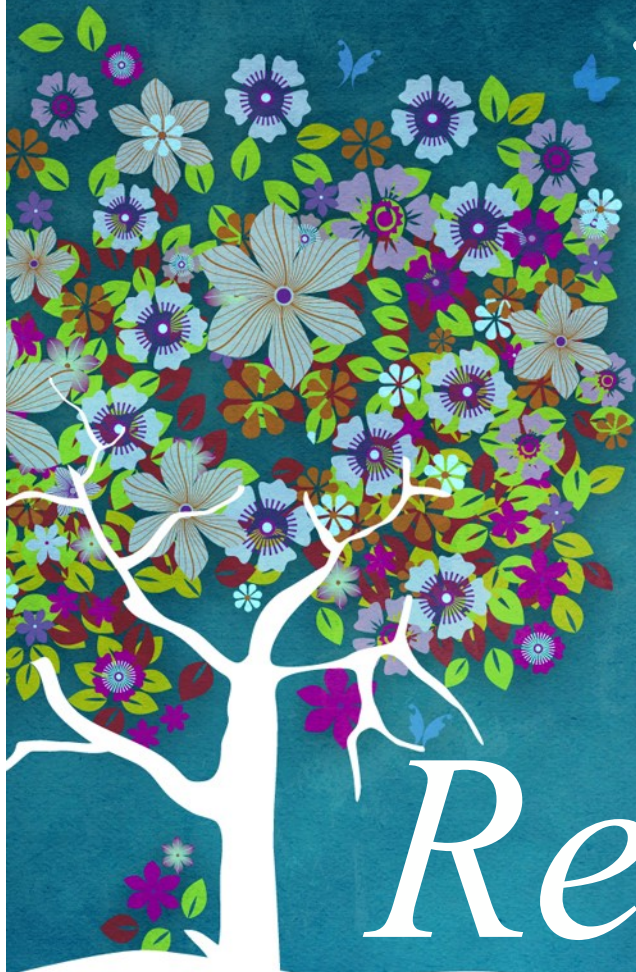


*From under the Redbud Tree.....*



# The *Redbud*

*The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church  
Mountain Home, Arkansas*

*April, 2021*

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## Loving an EGR



During a conversation over coffee, a friend mentioned an "EGR." I had to interrupt and ask for a definition: Extra Grace Required — in other words, people who can seem tough to love. Often, they're the most in *need* of love because they're hurting. Perhaps Jesus was referring to EGRs when he said, "If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much" (Matthew 5:46, NLT).

Truly loving others — even EGRs — might not be as tough as we think. Simple gestures such as smiling, truly listening, sending a note or extending an invitation go a long way toward expressing care and softening hearts. At times, we all require extra grace. Thankfully, God has an unlimited amount to extend *to* us and then *through* us. Out of joy, we can find ways — even simple ones — to share God's grace and love with people who need it.

—Janna Firestone

# Pastor's Desk



*He is Risen!*

*He is Risen Indeed!*

*Alleluia!*



## **Two Dogs and a Cat go to Heaven**

A German Shepherd, Doberman and a cat have died. All three are faced with God, who wants to know what they believe in.

The German shepherd says, "I believe in discipline, training and loyalty to my master."

"Good," says God. "Then sit down on my right side. Doberman, what do you believe in?"

The Doberman answers, "I believe in the love, care and protection of my master."

"Ah, yes," said God. "You may sit to my left."

Then he looks at the cat and asks, "And what do you believe in?"

The cat answers, "I believe you're sitting in my seat."





# Serving in April



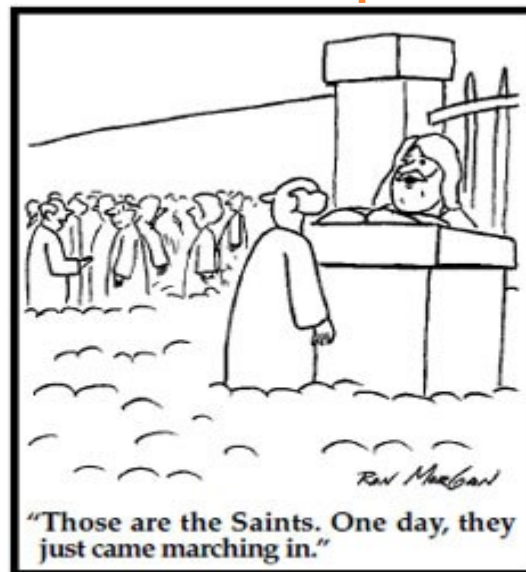
April 7- Joyce Hove  
April 18- Cheryl Munson Beall  
April 19- Ruth Fine  
April 30- Janet Newman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 10- Pastor Mike and Jan Clark



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April 4- Kay Kunkel

April 11- Doug Wells

April 18- Nancy Priest

April 25- Ralph Gillespie



April 4- Don & Dee Crapnell  
April 11- Don & Dee Crapnell  
April 18- Mike & Marty Hasty

April 25- Karen Gillespie &  
Janet Newman



# The Church at Work



## February Deacon's Meeting Minutes

The Deacons met for their monthly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 15 via ZOOM. A newsletter from Alpha House was shared which expressed the need for hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, soap, etc. The Deacons approved a \$300.00 donation to the Alpha House.



## **SESSION**

## FEBRUARY SESSION MEETING MINUTES

The regular Session meeting was held on Feb. 23rd, 2021 via ZOOM. At the February meeting the Session agreed to revisit the reopening of "in house" worship in March. Also the new camera system is working well, and there is work being done to find a way to live stream the services without paying an additional fee.

A copy of the minutes of the Session Meeting is available on the mail room bulletin board.



## February Financial Report

Feb Donations: \$ 4,162.00  
Feb. Expenses: \$10,698.01  
Checking Balance: \$18,421.09

<u>SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR</u>		<u>APRIL</u>
April 4-	Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Mark 16: 1-8	April 25- Acts 4: 5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18
April 11-	Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2 John 24:13-49	
April 18-	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke: 24:36b-48	



# Our Church Family



## Rosemary's Cancer Treatment Update

Ralph and Karen Gillespie's three-year-old great-granddaughter Rosemary has been battling Stage 3 Rhabdomyosarcoma, a type of cancer since 8/2020. Rosemary has been having aggressive treatments at Children's Hospital in Boston to shrink a tumor that was found. On March 11th Rosemary's dad posted an update on her condition. "Rosemary's feeding tube has been removed due to a gain in weight, though there are still rough days full of chemotherapy and neuropathy pain that causes her leg to drag when she walks. She is having IV's at home, injections and home nurse visits." Community members & friends were able to give the family a brief "vacation" in the White Mountains where Rosemary and her brother Asher swam, and even had lunch in an igloo! Their journey continues, but they "look for the good in the bad, and the reasons to keep fighting." Please keep their family in your prayers.

Please remember our members who have moved away from this area during this past year with a card or a short note. They would love to hear from you!!

Mareline Bond  
975 Richland Creek  
Elkins, AR 72727

Phyllis Gladson  
c/o Serenity Assisted Living  
4000 Main Street  
East Peoria, IL 61611

Suzanne Smyth  
383 Drewrys Bluff Drive  
Fayetteville, AR 72704

Lou Strong  
120 Perry Gate Blvd. #109  
Wentzville, MO 63385





# "Calling Blessings"



**By– Holly Lebowitz Rossi Posted in Inspiring Stories, Sept. 22, 2020**

Many years ago, at the convocation that began my time in divinity school, I heard a sermon that I've never forgotten. The preacher shared the story of a woman who was walking along the beach on a cloudy day, lost in thought and enjoying the solitude.

Her reverie was interrupted by the sound of someone shouting just up the beach from where she stood. It was a man, just visible through the mist. His arms wide, he shouted, "Come, blessings!" He turned toward the water, then away from the woman, again shouting, "Come, blessings, come!"

The woman stopped in her tracks, taking in the scene. Her pensive mood deepening, she thought about the pure, direct spiritual appeal she was witnessing. Here was a man, she thought, who had made his way to the quiet, enduring presence of nature to call blessings into his life, to literally shout into the wind for the blessings he yearned for.

She started walking again, hoping to speak to the man and thank him for the much-needed inspiration she had gleaned from his spiritual practice. As she walked, the wind continued to carry his voice. "Come, blessings! Come, blessings, come!" She started to speak the simple, powerful words along with him, feeling buoyed and increasingly freed each time.

Then, just as suddenly as when she first heard him, the man stopped shouting. And just as suddenly as when she first noticed him, the woman stopped walking.

A big, floppy-eared dog bounded joyfully toward the man, seeming to have emerged mystically from the mist. The woman was close enough to the man to hear him, as he tousled the dog's fur, exclaim, "Blessings! There you are! I thought I had lost you!"

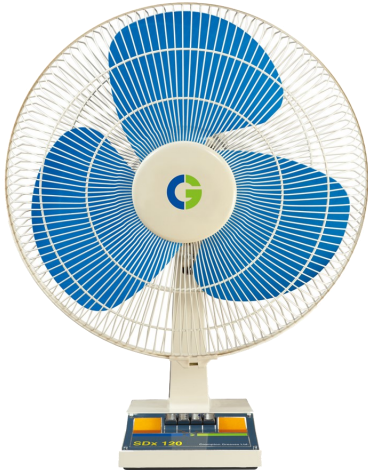
At first the woman felt silly, having confused a dog named Blessings for a profound moment of communion with the divine. But as she continued on her walk, she smiled contentedly. The message she had received, the inspiration to ask clearly and plainly for the goodness, hope, peace and other blessings she yearned for, was real, even if the bearer of the message had four legs and a tail.

Perhaps, she thought, it was not a coincidence that the man had named his dog Blessings. And perhaps the dog had not been lost at all.

How do you call blessings into your life?

*Help keep your neighbors cool!*

**MAY 2021**



**Take a *fan* to  
church AND...**

During the month of **May**, bring a new (not used) fan with you to church and also new towels, new wash cloths and new sleeping bags! (Monetary donation are accepted.) We cannot accept used items.




All items will be distributed by *Needs of Many* through the *Ozark Center of Hope*, the *Christian Clothing Exchange* and other local agencies.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Chris Steiger 870-508-0185 or**

**Bette Gould 870-492-6710**

# REDBUD CALENDAR APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
			<b>4/31</b> <b>Video taping of</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>10:30 am</b>	<b>1 Virtual Service</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> <b>fpcmh.net</b> 	<b>2</b> <b>C</b> <b>L</b> <b>O</b> <b>S</b> <b>E</b> <b>D</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>10:00 am -</b> <b>Worship Service/</b> <b>Communion</b>  <b>Easter Sunday</b> 	<b>5</b> <b>Counters 9:00 am</b>  	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>C</b> <b>L</b> <b>O</b> <b>S</b> <b>E</b> <b>D</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>  <b>10:00 am -</b> <b>Worship Service</b>  <b>Second Sunday of</b> <b>Easter</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>Counters 9:00 am</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b> <b>C</b> <b>L</b> <b>O</b> <b>S</b> <b>E</b> <b>D</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>  <b>10:00 am -</b> <b>Worship Service</b>  <b>Third Sunday of</b> <b>Easter</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>Counters 9:00 am</b>	<b>20</b> <b>10:00 am-</b> <b>Deacon's</b> <b>Meeting in</b> <b>Fellowship Hall</b>  <b>1:00 pm-</b> <b>Session Meeting</b> <b>in Fellowship Hall</b>	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b>  <b>EARTH DAY</b> 	<b>23</b> <b>C</b> <b>L</b> <b>O</b> <b>S</b> <b>E</b> <b>D</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>  <b>10:00 am -</b> <b>Worship Service</b>  <b>Fourth Sunday of</b> <b>Easter</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>Counters 9:00 am</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>C</b> <b>L</b> <b>O</b> <b>S</b> <b>E</b> <b>D</b>	
			<div> <b>Publication Deadlines</b>  Weekly bulletin - Wednesday afternoon  Newsletter - Redbud deadline -THURSDAY, APRIL 21st  Please submit all articles in writing.  You may drop them off at the office or email to:  fpcmh@centurytel.net </div>			



**First Presbyterian Church  
1106 Spring Street  
Mountain Home, AR 72653**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Church Office Hours  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. /Monday - Thursday**

**Church Mailing Address:  
1106 Spring Street  
Mountain Home, AR 72653  
870-425-3799**

**fpcmh@centurytel.net  
Website: [www.fpcmh.net](http://www.fpcmh.net)**

**Rev. Mike Clark,  
Transitional Pastor**

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Secretary: Kristi Nelson  
Bookkeeper: Nancy Priest**