

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



# The Redbud

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

*May, 2021*

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## WONDERS OF YOUR BLESSINGS

I remember a conversation when my wife and I first visited the beautiful Oregon coast. We were talking with a man who lived in a certain neighborhood not far from Newport. My wife mentioned that it must be wonderful to live so close to the ocean and the beach.

"I never go to the beach," he said.

"You're kidding," I said. "This stretch of coastline is amazing!"

"I used to," he said, "but you get tired of seeing it every day and soon it's no big deal."

I think that's the way we sometimes treat the blessings that God sends our way. Someone once wrote,

When we see the same blessings every day,  
When we eventually stop noticing them  
When we stop noticing, we quit appreciating.  
When we quit appreciating, we stop thanking.  
When we stop thanking, we start complaining.

— Timothy Merrill



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From the Pastor's desk:

Finally!!! After over a year without worshipping together we are now able to gather in worship in our church home. We are now at least able to see and greet each other even if it is from a distance. It truly has been a journey. And, we are still on the journey.

It is so good to see all of you as we gather in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is different yes, but we are able to gather. I want to commend all of you for cooperating as we strive to follow CDC recommended guidelines. You are willing to wear those gosh awful masks! You are willing to maintain a distance from one another as you find your way to a pew, not necessarily the pew you used to sit in. You have been very compliant in dismissing and leaving the sanctuary. We are so used to having time following worship in fellowship—a much needed and missed part of our church family gathering. Some day! Some day we will once again be able to gather for cookies and crumpets.

I can't help but think of the early church families that would gather in secret for fear of their lives; like many of us who feared gathering for fear of our lives, not from government officials but from a deadly virus. They would move from one place or another so that the Roman officials would not be able to find them. We stayed home and many worshipped by virtual video. A new experience for many of us I am sure.

We were scattered for awhile, but now are able to gather feeling safer and not as fearful. All this time we have grown, grown in many ways, the least of which is a greater and deeper appreciation for our church family. In all of this God is good. Some have experienced losses. There has been a lot of loneliness. Missing family and friends! Fear has been running through our veins as we desperately try to avoid the "virus." And yet, and yet, by the Grace of God, God has kept us together. Not unlike the early Christians who feared for their lives we are hanging in there. "THANKS BE TO GOD!"

We are in search of a new normal as many call it. God will show us the way as God did for the early Christians. TRUST! HAVE FAITH! God loves you!





# Special Days in May



May 9 - Mike Hasty

May 11 - Barb Hough

May 24 - Jackie Hoff

May 31 - George Hove



May 9 - Cathy & Jerry  
Roever

May 13 - Robert & Susan  
Kearns

May 18 - Chuck & Cheryl  
Munson Beall



## Special Dates

National Day of Prayer - May 6

Mother's Day - May 9

Ascension Day - May 13

Armed Forces Day - May 15

Pentecost - May 23

Holy Trinity- May 30

Memorial Day - May 31



## LAY READERS FOR MAY 2021

May 2 - Mary Smith

May 9 - Ralph Gillespie

May 16 - Kay Kunkel

May 23 - Don Crapnell

May 30 - Doug Wells

## USHERS FOR MAY 2021

May 2 - Ralph & Karen Gillespie

May 9 - George & Joyce Hove

May 16 - George & Joyce Hove

May 23 - Carolyn Hannon & Sarah Kelly

May 30 - Carolyn Hannon & Sarah Kelly

# The Church at Work

## **DEACON'S MEETING**

The Deacons held their March meeting on March 16th at 10:00am in the church library. A newsletter from Alpha House requesting a donation for hygiene products was discussed in the February meeting but because there was not a quorum present the vote was tabled to the March meeting. In March a quorum was present and a motion was made and seconded to donate \$300 to the Alpha House for the purchase of Hygiene products.—Janet Newman

**MARCH SESSION MEETING** The Session did not meet “officially” on March 17th due to the lack of a quorum. The Session informally discussed the Baxter Bulletin news article being written about the re-opening of the church on Easter Sunday.—Michele Wells



## **Financial Statement** for the month of March, 2021- Nancy Priest

Income: \$8,105.00 Expenses: \$8,214.00

Checking account balance: \$18,854.46

TPF Investment Acct: \$314,196.43

Money Market Account: \$64,708.14

## **AARP TAX AID SERVICE**

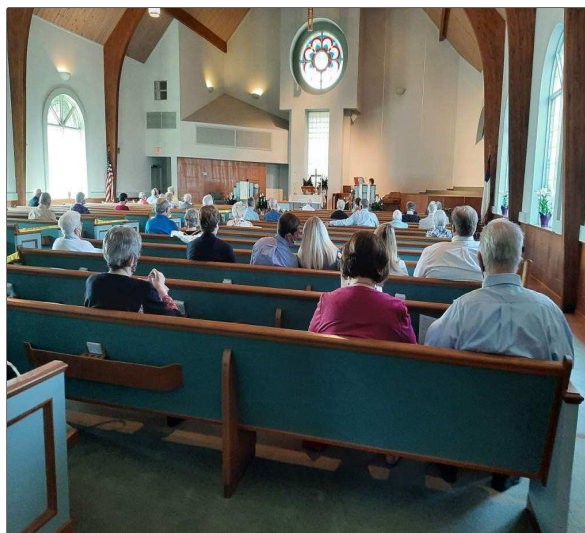
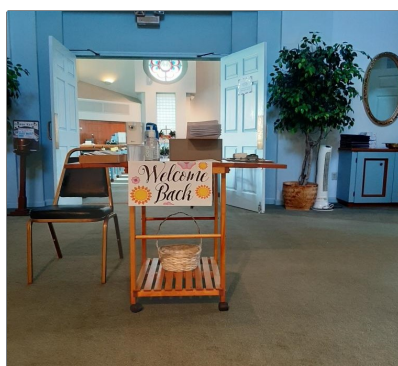
We would like to thank the Session and the Congregation for the use of the Fellowship Hall for our AARP Tax Aid service over the last few months. A special thanks goes to all the members who donated their time so things would run smoothly. We realize that it may have caused some inconvenience, but the response from our clients was very positive. Their gratitude seemed to reinforce the mission of First Presbyterian Church, as new people were exposed to our church and its people. You might like to know that we served 340 clients and they donated over \$500.00 to offset the cost of utilities, etc. Hopefully we can repeat this service to the community next year.

Sincerely— Pete Wells & Ralph Gillespie

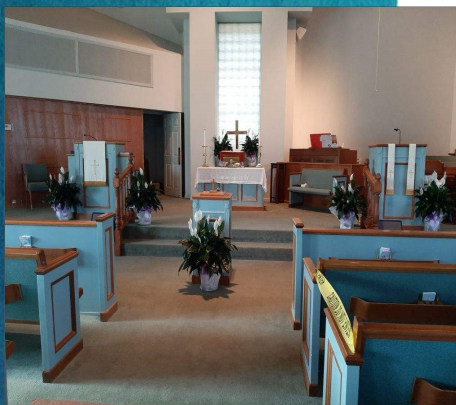
**THANK YOU**



# Easter 2021







## Scripture Readings for the Month of May

Sunday, May 2nd

5th Sunday of Easter

*Acts 8:26-40*

*Psalms 22:25-31*

*1 John 4:7-21*

*John 15:1-8*

Sunday, May 9th

6th Sunday of Easter

*Acts 10:44-48*

*Psalms 98*

*1 John 5:1-6*

*John 15:9-17*

Sunday, May 16th

7th Sunday of Easter

*Acts 1:15-17, 21-26*

*Psalms 1*

*1 John 5:9-13*

*John 17:6-19*

Sunday, May 23rd

Day of Pentecost

*Acts 2:1-21*

*Psalms 104:24-34, 35b*

*Romans 8:22-27*

*John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15*

Sunday, May 30th

The Holy Trinity

*Isaiah 6:1-8*

*Psalms 29*

*Romans 8:12-17*

*John 3:1-17*





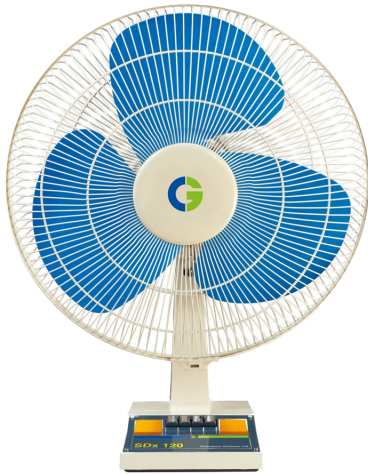
## **TIME FOR A FRESH START**

As we all start reclaiming our “normal” routines and schedules, it is important that we take time to remember to update important emergency information. Mari Ruegsegger sent a message to Pastor Clark asking him to remind us all to update our next of kin contacts & medical information. Whether you keep your emergency information in the glove compartment of your car, your purse or wallet, or in another secure place in your home, check to be sure that this information is current and easy to find!

Update your primary care physician’s information and any specialists you see. Have a list of medications you currently take and any other important medical information. An updated living will with your wishes known and witnessed and your emergency contacts’ phone numbers need to be current. Family members’ telephone numbers need to be updated so that they could be contacted in case you were in an accident. If you use any kind of “smart phone” many people will put the letters “ICE” - in case of emergency next to the name of their emergency contact.

Mari told of neighbors that were traveling to Illinois for Christmas. They were hit by an ambulance while traveling on ice. Their car was split in half with debris landing in trees and water. The only way they were able to track down family members was from a church bulletin. They contacted the church in Mountain Home and a fellow church member went to the hospital to be with the women until family could make it to the hospital. One of the women passed away shortly after arriving, but her family was able to be contacted quickly and be with her, thanks to the church bulletin.

**Take some time today and update your medical information & your personal contact lists! Be sure to tell your emergency contacts where you keep your medical information. It will only take a few minutes.....you are worth it!!**



*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.

**Please leave your fans, and other items in the narthex of the church.**



# REDBUD CALENDAR MAY, 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI	SAT
						1 
2 10 am - Worship Service/ Communion Deacon's Offering  Fifth Sunday of Easter	3 Counters 9 am	4	5  Cinco de Mayo	6 	7 	8
9 10 am - Worship Service  <b>Mother's Day</b> Sixth Sunday of Easter	10 Counters 9 am	11	12	13  The Ascension	14   <b>Armed Forces Day</b>	15
16 10 am—Worship Service  Seventh Sunday of Easter	17 Counters 9 am	18 10 am - Deacon's Meeting in Fellowship Hall  1 pm - Session Meeting in Fellowship Hall	19	20	21 	22
23 10 am - Worship Service 	24 Counters 9 am	25	26  Redbud Deadline	27	28 	29
30 10 am - Worship Service  TRINITY SUNDAY	31  MEMORIAL DAY Memorial Day	Church Office will be closed on Memorial Day 				

**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**