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# Edgewood Presbyterian Church

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## Newsletter April 2023

### The Way of the Cross: An Invitation to Holy Week

By [Peter Johnston](#) | April 9th, 2022 |  
Categories: [Liturgy & Worship](#)

Holy Week is the high mark of the church's liturgical year. In it we celebrate Jesus' final week in Jerusalem, from his arrival on Palm Sunday to his death on Good Friday, to his resurrection on Easter Sunday, with all the momentous events in between. There are many ways to commemorate the week, from personal reading of scripture, to family traditions, to the special liturgies and prayers of the church. These practices not only assist us in remembering Jesus' final week; they also train us in **the way of the Cross**, teaching us what it means for us to follow after Jesus. For though only a few of us will die a martyr's death, Jesus calls upon every one of his disciples to take up his cross:

*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ([Mark 8:34-36](#))*

What does it mean for the Christian to take up his cross? The details will differ by person, but the general pattern is the same: **we pour ourselves out in sacrificial love**, serving God

and neighbor. And when we are tempted by the world, the flesh, and the devil, we respond with self-denial, turning to the Lord as our highest good and waiting on him in patience. The contemplation of Holy Week, then, does not necessarily show us the details of our own cross, but it does show us the one Cross which gives the pattern to our own, the self-denial of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desired not to die yet accepted his crucifixion as the will of his Father: "*Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will*" ([Mark 14:36](#)).

The conclusion of Holy Week is Easter Sunday, the celebration of Jesus' triumph over death. Easter is **Good News** to us in many ways, not least because it means that Jesus is not only our example; even better, **Jesus is our Savior**. As we seek to follow after Christ and to deny ourselves, inevitably we will fail, succumbing to temptation, sinning and falling short of the obedience of Christ. But Jesus has risen from the grave; he who "*was delivered up for our trespasses*" is now "*raised for our justification*" ([Romans 4:25](#)). In other words, Christ has already saved us, apart from anything that we can do on our own. All our efforts to cover ourselves with our own righteousness are but filthy rags, but by his death and resurrection Christ freely covers us with his righteousness. He was stripped that we might be clothed. He died that we might live. He rose that we might rise with him, born again to newness of life.

Thus we return to the way of the Cross, **walking in the power of Christ**. We walk by faith, not by sight, believing that the same Father who delivered his Son from the grave is working in us. He has justified us in his Son, is sanctifying us by his Spirit, and is drawing us to himself. In the celebration of Holy Week, God is revealing his glory, and calling us in Christ to participate in it. Therefore let us pray, in the words of the Collect for Monday in Holy Week, with earnest longing and true hope:

*Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*



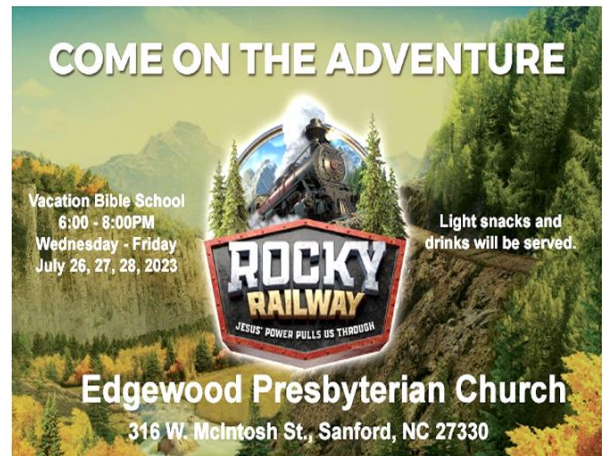
### **Christian Education**

Our children's Easter celebration will be Sunday, **April 2** (Palm Sunday), immediately after the worship service. Children are invited to stay for **lunch, crafts and Easter Egg Hunt!**

The next Christian Ed meeting will be held in the library on Sunday, June 25 at 10:30 am.

### **VBS**

Stephanie volunteered to organize Bible School. **She will need lots of helpers/volunteers**. The dates will be **July 26, 27 and 28**. It will be from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. In lieu of a meal, this year, a light snack and drink will be served.



### **Communications**

Check out the bulletin boards in the hallway near the restrooms, near the entrance to the upstairs adult Sunday school class, and in the fellowship hall. Pictures are added each week. *You may even find your picture!*

Our worship service video is posted on the **Edgewood Presbyterian Facebook** page each Sunday night.

We printed 250 Easter cards for distribution to local long-term care and rehab facilities. Teresa will deliver them along with some goodies for the staff.

## Music & Worship

Head Usher for April is Debra Wall

### Guest Pastors for April:

Palm Sunday: 2 – Terry Pleasants  
Easter 9 – Gracie Williams  
16 – Joyce McGehee  
Communion 23 – Rev. Laura Lupton  
30 – Rev. Jane Love

The next Worship committee meeting will be April 25 at 11:00AM.

**We have been blessed with beautiful special music in recent weeks:**



March 12, 2023 - **Audrey Hanna**



March 26, 2023 - **Kaitlyn Brown**



Thank you, Stephanie, for delivering the "Children's Sermon" when we need you!



Mary Holder and family provided this arrangement in memory of **Willa Holder**.



April Birthdays

*Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating birthdays this month!*

Special Collection



Beth is asking for donations of your **gas receipts** to help some of her dialysis patients in financial need. The receipts can be converted into Visa cards to purchase things they need or to pay bills. The receipts may be placed in this collection box located on tables in the narthex and the entrance near the restrooms. Your help would be greatly appreciated.



April Prayer Families of the Week

- 2 Rafael & Pat Morales
- 9 Drew & Katie Morrison
- 16 Jennifer, John, & Carlie Anne Nicholson
- 23 Jim & Rose Owle
- 30 Liesl Owle & Kaitlyn Brown

Fellowship

Beginning Sunday, April 2, snacks will be available in the fellowship hall from 10:30AM to 10:55. **Come in and enjoy the fellowship!** A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the kitchen giving you the opportunity to volunteer. A volunteer will be responsible for putting out cookies, juice and making coffee. Debra will make sure all items are available each Sunday. If there is a Sunday we do not have a volunteer, you have to help yourself.

On Easter Sunday, April 9, there will be special Easter snacks in the fellowship hall at 10:30.

Missions

**One Great Hour of Sharing** will be our special collection on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Jan. – Feb. Treasurer’s Report

Receipts . . . . .	\$21,587.66
Disbursements . .	10,808.94



## Presbyterian Women

**Program:**  
the Rock, the Road,  
and the Rabbi



March 13, 2023



The Presbyterian Women's Circle met Monday, March 13. The program was session 5, Mount of Olives, and Triumphant Entry. Connie led us in this study. Refreshments were provided by Patsy and Connie.

The PW Coordinating Team will meet Monday, April 3 at 2:00.

***The Presbyterian Women will have a General Meeting on Monday, April 10, at 2:00. We will have a program and new officers for 2023-2024 will be presented. The Coordinating team will provide refreshments.***

## **Food for Thought**

*Most of us remember Andy Rooney from CBS's "60—Minutes" TV program. Here are some of his Rooneyisms - Too good not to share!!*

I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned.... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned.... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've learned.... That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned.... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've learned.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile..

I've learned.... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've learned.... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned.... That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

I've learned.... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've learned..... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned..... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.

I've learned.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

## Fasting in the Season of Lent

### What I learned in Sunday school

By: Jerry Wynn

At the beginning of Lent, traditionally, Christians often “fast” for 40 days, giving up a favorite food or some other consumable that they enjoy. But, I learned in Sunday School, that an alternative to that tradition could be to refrain from a bad habit or vice. So, at the suggestion of someone very close to me, I decided to abstain from **complaining**. Over the years, this habit has become very annoying to her, but at my advanced age and years of experience, I have become very adept at being critical of almost anything.

Most of my complaints are related to my own body. I can’t physically do a lot of things I used to do. While I was never very athletic, I was pretty good at doing stuff around the house. I could climb on top of the house and clean gutters, crawl under a car to change oil, carry heavy things, dig holes in the ground, and get on my knees to work with flooring. Now, if a task requires me to get on my knees, I must be within reach of a post or a chair or some other stable object to facilitate my return to a standing position. My poor balance has mandated that both feet must always be on firm ground. My strength and stamina are greatly diminished.

My “advisor” suggested that rather than complain, I should be thankful to have reasonably good health and to have retained some mental faculties. With a bit of attitude adjustment, I’ve had some success in reducing my frustration.

However, driving in Sanford presents a major obstacle to my “fasting”. I’m sure my automobile emits a signal that calls every poor driver in Lee County to the path to wherever it is that I’m going. (None of their cars, by-the-way, have signal lights.) Still, I have generally maintained my composure, except when driving on Horner Blvd.

I hope I can continue to minimize my complaints. It has indeed been a major challenge. *Please pray for me.*

**F**orgiveness  
**A**cceptance  
**S**elf-Control  
**T**ruth  
**I**ntegrity  
**N**ourishment  
**G**race