

Tidings of Peace



April

2026

Newsletter of Peace Memorial EPC

From the Pastor

The Joy of the Easter Season: Living in the Power of the Resurrection

Dear Friends,

As we enter the Easter season, the Church stands at the very heart of the Christian faith: *“He is not here, for He has risen, as He said”* (Matthew 28:6). Easter is not merely a day we celebrate—it is a reality we live. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our hope, the assurance of our salvation, and the power for our daily lives.

In the Reformed tradition, we rightly emphasize that the resurrection is not an isolated event, but the triumphant confirmation of Christ’s finished work on the cross. On Good Friday, our Lord declared, *“It is finished”* (John 19:30). On Easter morning, the Father declared that it was accepted. The empty tomb proclaims that sin has been defeated, death has been conquered, and Christ reigns as King.

A Season, Not Just a Sunday

The Easter season (often called Eastertide) reminds us that the resurrection is not confined to one morning each year. For forty days after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples, teaching them about the kingdom of God (Acts 1:3). The Church, therefore, has long marked this season as a time of sustained reflection on the risen Christ and His ongoing work among His people.

This is a time to deepen our understanding of what it means to live as resurrection people. The Apostle Paul writes, *“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above”* (Colossians 3:1). Easter calls us not only to rejoice, but to reorient our lives—to set our minds and hearts on Christ, who is seated at the right hand of God.

Resurrection Life in Daily Practice

What does it look like to live in the light of the

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resurrection?

Renewed Hope: Because Christ lives, we are not defined by our past or bound by our failures. Our hope is secure, anchored in the living Savior.

New Obedience: The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us (Romans 8:11), enabling us to walk in holiness and faithfulness.

Enduring Joy: Even in trials, we rejoice, knowing that death itself has lost its sting (1 Corinthians 15:55).

Bold Witness: The early Church proclaimed the resurrection with courage. We too are called to bear witness to the risen Christ in our homes, workplaces, and community.

Looking Ahead: From Resurrection to Ascension

The Easter season also prepares us to celebrate the Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The risen Lord did not remain distant—He ascended to reign and sent His Spirit to dwell within His people. This reminds us that the resurrection is not only about what Christ has done, but about what He continues to do as our living Head and King.

A Call to Rejoice and Respond

As we move through this Easter season, let us not rush past the wonder of the resurrection. Take time to meditate on the gospel accounts, to gather with the saints in worship, and to reflect on the new life we have in Christ.

Christ is risen!—this is not only good news; it is life-transforming truth. May we, as a congregation, walk in that truth with renewed faith, deeper love, and steadfast hope.

“Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Christ is risen indeed!
Pastor Aaron

April Birthdays

1st Susan Orton
16th Sally Lovins
23rd Debbie Grant
30th Grace Johnson

April Anniversaries

20th Jim & JoAnn Eiman
27th Gary & Michelle Preston

Sunday Social Time:

A reminder that in each odd numbered month (Jan., March, May, etc.) on the fourth Sunday the congregation at large has the opportunity to serve in the kitchen for the after Worship social time.

The logo for Sunday Social is a light green circle containing the text "SUNDAY Social". "SUNDAY" is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and "Social" is in a black, cursive script font.

SUNDAY
Social

For those who would like to do this and are not familiar with the routine please check with one of the Deacons and we'll get you plugged in.

MISSION MEMO: (from Geri Coker)

In 1955, a young Dutch missionary began a ministry of delivering God's word to places known to be hostile to Christianity. Between 1955 and 1967, the man known only as "Brother Andrew" smuggled Bibles into some of the most dangerous places in the world- behind the Iron Curtain, Communist China and North Korea, and countries dominated by Islam and dictators. In 1967, he published his story in "God's Smuggler," and began what is known as Open Doors today.

Each year, Open Doors publishes its World Watch List of areas where persecution of the Christian faith is most extreme. Of the 50 countries (the UN recognizes 195 established countries, so that's about 25% of all nations), the "top 10" for 2026 are, in order: North Korea; Somalia; Yemen; Sudan; Eritrea; Syria; Nigeria; Pakistan; Iran. The atrocities committed against Christians in these areas have filled news headlines, at least for a short time.

What doesn't make the headlines is what I would call "soft persecution," incidents that are insidious, not as overt as the massacres in Nigeria, but just as harmful, especially because their existence is either pooh-poohed or denied altogether. This "soft persecution" happens in mostly Western countries such as Great Britain, Canada, and the good old USA. Remember the COVID Pandemic, where liquor stores and BLM rallies were okay but churches were shut down? Remember the 2022 attacks on Pregnancy Support Centers after the overturning of Roe v Wade that have yet to be resolved? Our own church was mocked for hosting a presentation on post-abortion issues in 2024. Jesus wasn't kidding when He said in John 15:18-21

18 *d* 'If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 *e* If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because *f* you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: *g* 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, *h* they will also persecute you. *i* If they kept My word, they will also keep yours. 21 But *j* all these things they will do to you *k* on account of My name."

What should we do in the face of such persecution, both overt and subtle? What can we do?

First is prayer- pray that our brothers and sisters being persecuted are strengthened and encouraged to withstand whatever is thrown at them, be it imprisonment or insult, with reliance on God's guidance and protection.

Second is study- study of Scriptures, and study of the saints who have come before us and live among us now.

Third is not neglect to gather together- in worship, in Bible study groups, in fellowship. It is when we gather together we are edified, encouraged, and equipped to share and defend the Gospel.

Fourth is pastoral counsel- do not hesitate to share with Pastor Aaron if you feel weak or ill-equipped. Even those who have followed Christ all their lives need a booster.

This is a dark time for Christians. May God strengthen our faith in the promise Jesus made in Matthew 16:18 that the "gates of hell"- the strategies, influences, and evil powers that seek to oppose God's purpose- shall not overpower His church. Amen.

PEACE MEMORIAL EPC SCHOLARSHIP FUND (Stewardship/Finance)

In October of 2025, Session approved the establishing of a college scholarship fund. These funds would be made available, through application, to any member of our church furthering his or her education. We are in the process of pinning down the who's and how's with a great deal of help from Kathleen Walker-Henderson. At the moment, monies for the fund are through donations made directly by congregation members. A special category has been established through our Money Market account. If this is something you feel called to support, simply make a donation separate from your regular giving and mark it "Scholarship Fund." Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could start awarding scholarships come the Fall 2026 term?



And since we are at the beginning stage of how and what the procedures will be - will this be part of a standing committee, or will a new committee be formed- you might prayerfully consider if you would be willing to serve once the dust settles. We are blessed to have many in our congregation who have a background in education, have been involved with scholarship programs, and/or have been gifted with discernment.

Hi Friends of Peace Church!

Please mark your calendars for our Annual Spring Cleaning day for inside and outside chores. Hopefully the weather will cooperate with our date of **Saturday, April 25th starting around 9:00.**



This event will have lunch provided for those who come in to help out.

**Many thanks from the
Building & Grounds Committee!!**

MOURNING HYMN

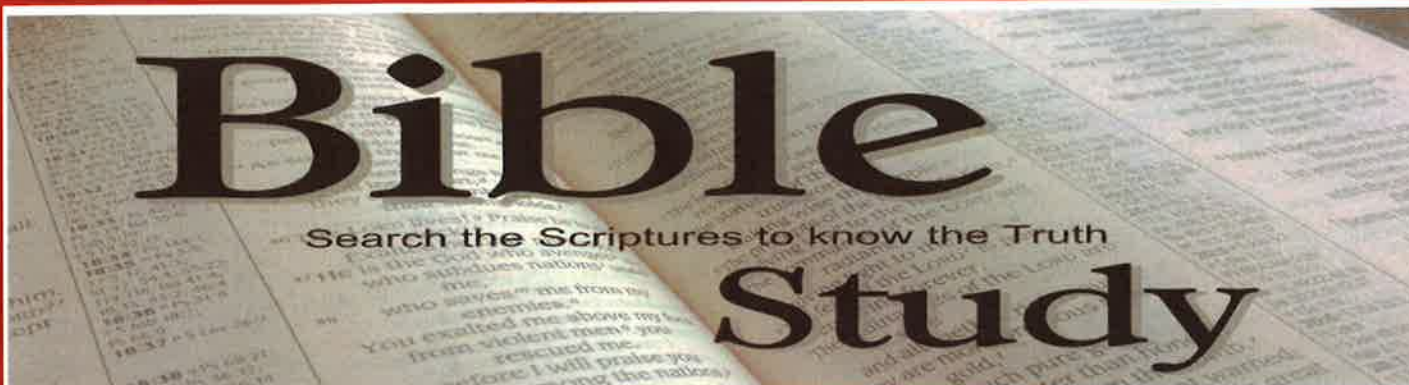
Lord Jesus Christ I mourn and weep
My covenant with you I keep
That I would love You to the end,
My dying Lord, my suffering Friend.
O my Lord, O my Lord.

Upon your brow the thorny crown,
This image pulls my spirit down.
The nails the wounds, Your gasping breath,
I'm overwhelmed Christ at Your death
O my Lord, O my Lord.

How should I grieve, should I cry?
Lord whose fault is this? Is it I?
Is it for all the wrongs I have done,
That God forsakes His only Son.

I'm tempted now to look away,
To let my heart avoid this day.
O let us not deny your pain
Lest all Your suffering be in vain.

Here Lord I lift my eyes to see,
Your precious body on the tree
This cross of wood, this place of strife,
Is now the way to truth and life.
O my Lord! O my Lord!



A new video series by Dr. R.C. Sproul entitled **“American Presbyterians and Revival: Lessons from the Nineteenth Century”**.

This series will look at the role of Presbyterian Christianity in American development in the 1800’s. Combining Scripture and a study of history will help unpack the complexities of the relationship between church and state and much of the modern misunderstandings regarding the role of faith with secular interests.

Sundays, 9-10am, Fireside room,
Discussion hosted by Pastor Aaron Beaty

Children’s and Youth Bible Classes

We are happy to announce that our Children’s and Youth Bible Classes will continue on Sundays through March during the 9:00 a.m. hour. Classes will meet in the upstairs classrooms.

These classes are an important part of our church’s ministry to our covenant children and youth. Through age-appropriate teaching, Scripture reading, and discussion, our goal is to help young people grow in their knowledge of God’s Word, understand the promises of the gospel, and learn what it means to follow Christ in daily life.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children a few minutes early to allow time for check-in and to help them settle into their classrooms. New families are especially welcome, and we are glad to assist anyone who needs help finding the appropriate class.



Small Groups are an important part of our life together as a congregation. They provide a setting where we can reflect more deeply on the Sunday sermon, study Scripture together, pray

for one another, and encourage one another in faithful Christian living. In these smaller gatherings, we are reminded that God uses ordinary means—His Word, prayer, and Christian fellowship—to grow us in grace.



Whether you have been part of a Small Group for many years or are considering joining one for the first time, this is an excellent time to reconnect. Here are our current small groups:

Men's Group: Tuesday mornings 9am, Red Rooster on 6th. (Breakfast)

Women's Group: Tuesdays, 10am-12, Fireside room (Sermon Discussion)

King's Group: Tuesdays, 2:30-4:30, Fireside Room (Sermon Discussion)

Goode Group: Tuesdays 3:00-5:00, Stephen & Sharron Goode's House (Sermon Discussion)

If you are not currently connected to a Small Group and would like to be, we warmly invite you to participate. Please contact the church office or speak with pastor Aaron an elder for more information.

(541) 884-5057
pastoraaronepc@yahoo.com

Men's Breakfast: Tuesdays, 9am, Red Rooster Diner, 6th St.

Jim Zeller, 541-274-1942



Women's Missionary Group:

2nd & 4th Wednesdays,

12:30-2 Fireside Room



Stewardship & Finance Committee

February 2026

Here is our monthly update on finance:

Operating Income:.....	\$17,009.72
Operating Expenses:.....	<u>\$15,026.46</u>
Monthly Net:.....	\$1,983.26
YTD /Net:.....	(\$1,965.95)
Checking 2/28/26:.....	\$43,730.52
Money Market 2/28/26:.....	\$38,762.45
Edward Jones CD 2/28/26:..	\$22,054.26
Edward Jones MM 2/28/26:	\$37,501.67
TOTAL 2/28/26:.....	\$142,048.90

Expenses in February beyond regular operations were: Office equipment, janitorial supplies, landscaping (pre-emergent spray), missions donations, and pulpit supply.

Our annual in-house financial audit is scheduled for April 10th. A big thank you to the volunteers who plan to help with this task.

-Kathy Todd, Treasurer



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Got yarn?? The recently established Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at 10:00 -11:30a.m. on 3rd-Wednesdays in the Fireside room. The devotional prayer focus is on Hope. Hope for

Christ's active presence to touch the shawl creators and shawl recipients. Prayer shawls are a tangible representation of God's unending love & presence. They provide comfort and joy. Do you crochet or knit or have always wanted to.....we can teach you. Need a pattern? We have patterns! While shawls are worked on during our fellowship together they can also be done at home as well. Consider joining the group! We will be working to build up an inventory of shawls for our congregational needs & for new mothers over the next 2 months. ***The goal is to have a prayer shawl blessing in late March. Contact Cheryl Paletz for more information!***

Dear EPC Family,

As war continues across parts of the Middle East, Central Asia, and Ukraine, I want to share how World Outreach is responding — and how our global workers are doing. Many of you have reached out with concern. Thank you. Your care for those serving in hard places means more than you know.

Several of our workers and their families are living in these affected regions. They are faithfully bringing the gospel in word and deed to people with little to no access to Christ. They have built deep relationships. They have planted roots. And even now — especially now — their presence shines with a quiet, steady hope.

There is real danger. We do not minimize that. But I want to assure you: we have a Risk and Crisis Management Team in daily contact with every affected family. All of our workers are safe. Most describe their current situation as similar to a normal week, while some are sheltering in place — which is currently the safest option given closed airspace and unstable borders. We are also advised by a professional international security consultant who provides real-time guidance for every decision we make.

I've received many messages of concern with three most frequently asked questions:

First: How are our global workers?

They are doing well. When asked to rate their stress levels from 1 to 10, most report between 1 and 3. A few are higher — 5 to 7 — but across the board there is a remarkable sense of peace and confidence in the Lord.

Second: Can we give to help?

The answer is, Yes. War is rarely simple or short-lived. Even when stress feels manageable today, the long-term effects — emotional, psychological, and practical — are real. We anticipate needs for counseling, respite, relocation, schooling transitions, and emergency housing. With more than a dozen families currently impacted, the challenge is significant.

Our emergency fund for workers is limited and the International Disaster Relief Fund is critically low — under \$5,000 remaining. Replenishing these funds allows us not only to care well for our workers, but also to respond when gospel opportunities emerge. We have seen in Ukraine how the Lord opens doors even in war. We want to be ready when He does it again.

In moments like this, we have the opportunity to be the Church — to carry one another's burdens, as Galatians 6 reminds us.

Our goal is simple: that no worker carries this alone. They have poured themselves out. Now it is our turn to surround them with prayer and tangible support—fulfilling our vows to these commissioned workers.

Third: How can we pray?

Pray for protection, wisdom, and peace. Pray as we did here in the OGA this morning, praying Psalm 91, Psalm 121, and Psalm 27 over our workers and over the people in these regions. Pray that God would dispel both the physical darkness of war and the spiritual darkness in human hearts.

And let us pray together: Almighty God, we pray for your mercy and grace over these warring lands and people, even as you shake them. Thank you that your kingdom cannot be shaken, and that we are receivers of that unshakable kingdom, and may we therefore worship you with awe and wonder. Surround our global workers with heaven's armies. Be their shield and defender, refuge and strength. Be their shelter, oh most high. May your peace, true peace, be found by all who cry out for help. As millions in this region actively participate in Ramadan, praying and fasting to seek forgiveness, guidance, and blessings, may it be you whom they find. May it be you, Lord Jesus, whom they see, hear, and feel.

Through this war, and through this season, may it be a breakthrough to a peace only you can provide, the one that surpasses all understanding, the peace that saves, redeems, and resurrects. We pray this in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. May your will be done, and your kingdom come. Amen.

Thank you for prayers and continued support for our global workers. God bless.

April 2026

April 2026							May 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 29	30	31	Apr 1	2 6:00pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	3 Office Closed	4
5 EASTER SUNDAY!!!	6	7 9:00am Men's Breakfast (Red Rooster Grill and) 10:00am Women's Small Group 2:30pm King Group 3:00pm Goode Group	8 12:30pm Women's Missionary bible study	9 10:30am Missions & Outreach	10 Office Closed	11
12 9:00am Sunday Bible Classes 10:30am Communion 10:30am Worship	13 12:00pm Session	14 9:00am Men's Breakfast (Red Rooster Grill and) 10:00am Women's Small Group 2:30pm King Group 3:00pm Goode Group	15 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group (Fireside Rm)	16	17 Office Closed	18
19 9:00am Sunday Bible Classes 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons	20 4:00pm Stewardship/Finance	21 9:00am Men's Breakfast (Red Rooster Grill and) 10:00am Women's Small 11:00am Discipleship Mtg 2:30pm King Group 3:00pm Goode Group	22 12:30pm Women's Missionary bible study	23	24 Office Closed	25 9:00am Spring Clean-up Day
26 9:00am Sunday Bible Classes 10:30am Worship	27 1:00pm Building & Grounds	28 9:00am Men's Breakfast (Red Rooster Grill and) 10:00am Women's Small Group 2:30pm King Group 3:00pm Goode Group	29 Articles due to the office for Newsletter	30	May 1	2



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Presbyterian (EPC)

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E-mail: office@peacepres.org

Pastor: pastoraaronneps@yahoo.com

We're on the web!

www.peaceEPC.com

"like" us on Facebook

"Oh, taste and see
that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the one who takes
refuge in Him!"
-Proverbs 34:8



Sermons for April:

EASTER

4/5- EASTER (Delivered into the Promise)
Deuteronomy 34:1-4
In Me is life everlasting
1 John 5:11-12

SAUL

4/12- His Faith and Failure
1 Samuel 11; 15
1 Peter 2:17-22

DAVID

4/19- Anointed
1 Samuel 16:1-13

4/26- Courageous
1 Samuel 17:1-58

(Rev. Larry Jung)



DEACONS

- Noreen Rhoades - Chair
- Debbie Grant
- Jocelyn Shellito
- Sharon Haddock
- Marie Gregory

The Deacons meet the third Sunday of each month following worship.



SESSION/ELDERS

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Pastor Aaron Beaty- | Moderator |
| Geri Coker- | Mission |
| Kathy Todd- | Stewardship & Finance |
| Betty Shaw- | Worship |
| Sandi Deatherage- | Discipleship & Evangelism;
Clerk |
| Gary Scott- | Building & Grounds |

Session meets the 2nd Monday from 12-2.