

# SOUNDINGS - April 2019

At Christmas one of my favorite songs is "Born in the Night, Mary's Child". It is a lyrical song which reminds us that the Christ Child was not just a child, as he is the embodiment of God's grace. But Jesus was also simply a child, a child whose mother loved him so.

*Born in the night, Mary's child, a long way from your home:  
coming in need, Mary's child, in a borrowed room.*

*Clear shining light, Mary's child, your face lights up our way:  
light of the world, Mary's child, dawn on our darkened day.*

*Truth of our life, Mary's child, you tell us God is good:  
prove it is true, Mary's child. Go to your cross of wood.*

*Hope of the world, Mary's child, you're coming soon to reign:  
king of the earth, Mary's child, walk in our streets again.*

As we approach the celebration of Easter, we are reminded of the difficult path which Jesus walked as a human being. He was a person who sat with sinners and outcasts. He was a truth teller. For what he taught about God and how he questioned human hierarchies of love- he was scorned. Ultimately the human powers that be, took his life. And his mother had to watch him suffer and die. There is nothing good about this. But there is some comfort in knowing that God in Jesus knew human struggle and even the sting of death itself.

The good news we cling to in the midst of our human struggles is that this was not the end of the story, not for Mary's child and not for all of humankind. In the path of this unique man, we come to know the depth of God's love. Love itself overcame the grip of sin and death. We can trust that the strength of this Holy Love is offered to us. So we look to the journey of Jesus in this season of Lent, we look with sadness and repentance but also with hope.

## *The Ballad of Mary's Son*

*It was in the Spring/ The Passover had come.  
There was feasting in the streets and joy.  
But an awful thing/ Happened in the Spring –  
Men who knew not what they did/ Killed Mary's Boy.  
He was Mary's Son,/ And the Son of God was He –  
Sent to bring the whole world joy.  
There were some who could not hear,  
And some were filled with fear –  
So they built a cross/ For Mary's Boy.*

1954, LANGSTON HUGHES

Your pastor,  
*Stefanie*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE



### PALM SUNDAY, April 14

Worship on Palm Sunday will begin with a festive procession at **10:30 a.m.** from Santander Bank at the corner of N. Third and Spring Garden Streets to the front of the church and on into the Sanctuary.

**Please plan to gather by the Bank by no later than 10:25 a.m.** so that we might all process together, singing "Hosanna!" and waving our palms.

*Those who would find it difficult to walk down the sidewalk to the front of the church are invited to enter the back door as the procession begins and go straight into the Sanctuary.* **NOTE:** If the weather does not cooperate that morning, we will gather in the Brainerd Gathering Area prior to worship for our joyful procession of palms.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 18

Our church celebrates Maundy Thursday with a covered dish dinner followed by worship and communion in the Sanctuary.

The dinner will begin at 6:00 pm in Legacy Hall. Everyone who attends is asked to bring a dish to serve about 6-8 people. Those whose last names begin with **A-G** please bring a dessert; **H-O** please bring a side dish or salad; and **P-Z** please bring a main dish. Bread will be supplied by the Worship Team.

The Maundy Thursday worship service will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Worship will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and a Tenebrae Service. **Child care** will be available during the worship service.

### GOOD FRIDAY, April 19

Our partner in ministry to downtown Easton, **Trinity Episcopal Church** at 234 Spring Garden Street, will host a community Good Friday service at **noon**. Come walk with Jesus his final steps leading to the Cross.

## EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Having walked with Jesus during Holy Week, come experience the joy of the Resurrection as we share in the ancient Easter greeting: "He is risen!" "He is risen indeed!" The morning will begin with **breakfast and fellowship** hosted by the Board of Deacons, **9:15-10:15 a.m.** in Legacy Hall, followed by a festive worship service at **10:30 a.m.** in a Sanctuary bright with all the colors of spring.

And, if you are an early riser, you have an opportunity for **Easter Sunrise Service:**

The **Downtown Covenant Churches** will host an ecumenical sunrise service at the amphitheater at Riverside Park on the Delaware at **7:00 a.m.**

## CONGREGATION CONNECTIONS

**THE SHAWL MINISTRY** will meet on **Monday, April 1, at 1:00 pm** in the Brainerd Gathering area. Anyone who enjoys knitting and crocheting (or would like to learn) is welcome. Contact Judy Jacobs if you have questions, 610-984-3740.

**THE BRUNCH BUNCH** will go to Outback Steakhouse, 3200 Emrick Blvd, Easton, on **Sunday, April 14**. All are welcome. For information about the Brunch Bunch, contact Ruthann Arras at 315-870-0200 or [ruthann.arras@gmail.com](mailto:ruthann.arras@gmail.com).

**THE BOOK CLUB** – The next Book Club meeting will be **Monday, April 15 at 1:00 p.m.** The group will be discussing ***A Piece of the World*** by Christine Baker Kline.

All are welcome, even men! You don't have to have read to join the book to come to the meetings. The discussions are usually quite lively. See you April 15! Contact Nancy Pruitt for more information, 610-258-1677.

**Downtown Diners** - To show our love and support for Easton and its businesses we've started "Downtown Diners", a fellowship group that meets for lunch after church one Sunday every other month. They will meet on **April 14** and dine at Billy's Downtown Diner. All are welcome to join this fellowship group. Contact Pat Stanek, 610-217-9738 or Susan Mackay, 908-507-2621, for more information.



- 2 Nancy Wilson
- 11 Sandra Banghart
- 12 Victoria Opthof-Cordaro
- 13 Nancy Udut
- 14 John Wilson
- 17 Christy Kass
- 20 Shirley Heinsohn
- 22 Diana Akpor-Mensah
- 24 Ellis Finger
- 26 David Shoemaker

**CARE PACKAGES** The Membership Team will begin collecting snack foods for our college students on Sunday, March 31. We will be collecting for 4 weeks and will send the packages the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. There are five students, Matt Bartlett, Sybil Akpor-Mensah, Joshua Charlton, Jessica Van Norman and Michelle Muthoka.

You can donate cheese and crackers, granola, small packages of cereal, microwavable foods, ramen noodles, cups of soup, etc, or even money so gift cards can be purchased. A container will be in the hall outside the office for your donations.

Thank you in advance.

Nancy Pruitt

**TUESDAY LENTEN MEDITATIONS** sponsored by Church Women United is being held at St. Paul's Third Lutheran Church, 2561 Newburg Road in Palmer Township, on Tuesdays, through April 16 at 11:15 a.m. Attendees are invited to bring a brown bag lunch; beverages and dessert are provided. See the flyer on the bulletin board outside the pastor's office for more details.

### SHARING AND SERVICE

**THE MISSION ON TEAM** received the following thank yous – Heifer International \$120, Presbyterian Mission Special Offerings for Peace and Global Witness \$207.03 and Christmas Joy \$1,281.00. These letters are posted on the bulletin

board in Legacy Hall.

**PROJECT of EASTON** – Our thanks go out to all of you who have remained faithful in your giving to the ProJeCt Food Pantry on the first Sunday of Each month. Our next opportunity to donate either boxed, canned or microwave pasta will be **Sunday, March 31**. Please help us meet our goal of at least 75 pounds per month. *“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat....”* (Matthew 25:35)

**SAFE HARBOR DINNERS** – Thanks to all the Teams and individual members who have volunteered to prepare and serve a meal during the year. Without you this mission would not be possible. All dinners are covered at this time, but if for any reason you need to change your date or need extra help, please contact Nancy Udut at 610-253-5455 or [naomiudut@ymail.com](mailto:naomiudut@ymail.com). Thank you once again for your commitment to this ministry.

**PAYING OUR FAIR SHARE** – All members of our church are encouraged to find the envelope in the front of your box of offering envelopes marked *per capita* and use it to pay the *per capita* assessment which funds the operations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Alternatively mark “*per capita*” on the memo line of your check.

The 2019 ***per capita amount is \$36.00***. Our church has received much support from the broader Presbyterian community. Your yearly contribution helps this church do its part in making the local Presbytery and Presbyterian Church (USA) nationally a denomination which supports other congregations like ours.



*“You Shall Be Called Repairers of the Breach.”*

Isaiah 58

Your gifts to the One Great Hour of /sharing offering support the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). This is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this special offering.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters. The Presbyterian Hunger Program takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. Self Development of People invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

We have Fish Banks and World Map/Sharing Calendars to help our children (and adults) learn how their contributions help people around the world. They will be available in the Narthex and Legacy Hall. **The 2019 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received and dedicated in worship on Palm Sunday, April 14.**

**PRAYER REQUESTS** First Presbyterian Church has a prayer list which is updated and printed weekly. Prayer lists are available on Sunday morning on the back table in the sanctuary, or on the Deacons' information table in Legacy Hall. You may also receive this prayer list weekly by email. Call the Church Office to have a name added to the list. Names will be automatically removed after six weeks unless the office is notified otherwise.

**FLOWER CANS NEEDED** – The Board of Deacons is requesting donations of 46 oz. cans (the size of large juice cans) for use in transporting church flowers to our at-home or hospitalized church friends. The cans must be clean, with one end and the label removed if possible. Cans can be left in the service kitchen (next to the sanctuary). Also, if you have or know of someone who has a covered can already from a flower delivery, please return it to the church so we can use it again. Contact Susan Charlton for pick up (610-253-5658).

**Sanctuary Flowers** - The 2019 Flower Chart is posted in Legacy Hall. To sponsor flowers, sign the chart or call the church office. For two arrangements the cost is \$40 or more depending

on the size of the arrangement. We will take care of placing an order with our florist, *Bloomies*, and the florist will bill you directly. The flowers enhance the beauty of our worship and are then delivered by the Deacons to the sick and shut-ins.

**SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, May 18,** for the **Progressive Dinner Party** that benefits the “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering. The sign-up sheet is available in Legacy Hall during coffee hour. Contact Ruthann Arras, 315-870-0200, if you have questions

**SCRIP Program** The "Scrip" gift card program allows you to order gift cards for many merchants in the area, and the church will receive a contribution for every card sold. You may place orders on Sunday mornings during coffee hour in Legacy Hall - either see Lavona Baatz, or stop by the Giant card table.

**Cash For Causes** We participate in the **Giant Food Stores “Cash for Causes”** gift card program. Cards are available in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations. We also have **Shop Rite** gift cards in \$50 and \$100 denominations. You can buy them on Sunday during Coffee Hour in Legacy Hall, or during the week from Nancy Penman in the church office. Pay with cash or by check made out to the church with “gift card” in the memo line.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** The deadline for the May Soundings is Monday, April 22. Articles may be emailed to [office@eastonfpc.org](mailto:office@eastonfpc.org).

### **WE’RE CONNECTED**

The links to the church’s social media pages are:  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EastonFPC/>  
Twitter: [twitter.com/fpceaston](https://twitter.com/fpceaston) or [@fpceaston](https://twitter.com/fpceaston)  
These links are also on the church website:  
[www.eastonfpc.org](http://www.eastonfpc.org)

## PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER

Our sanctuary will be beautifully decorated with palms on Palm Sunday and flowers on Easter. If you would like to contribute toward the Easter flowers, please complete the form below and return to the church office by Monday, April 15. You may have a listing in the bulletin in memory or honor of a loved one. The cost of one listing is \$10.00.



### EASTER FLOWERS

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Listings \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will take my plant(s) home with me after Easter worship.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please deliver my plant to someone who could use some sunshine.



S P R I N G  
C O N C E R T

## AT THE FORKS

Sunday April 7 at 3 p.m.

### First Presbyterian Church of Easton

- New major work by composer Libby Larsen
- Featured soloist Emmet Cahill of Celtic Thunder
- Concord Chamber Singers of the Lehigh Valley
- Lafayette College Chamber Singers
- Professional chamber orchestra.
- Pre-concert lecture at 2 p.m. with composer Libby Larsen, conductor Jennifer Kelly, and a representative from the Signal Museum.

Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$10 students. To purchase tickets, call the Box Office at (484) 707-5078. If tickets remain, tickets can also be purchased at the door.

The concert is sponsored in part by the Lafayette Alumni Chorus (LAC), The Hearst Foundations, the Pennsylvania Council On The Arts, and the Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium (LVEHC) as supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, also the Signal Museum and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor's National Canal Museum .

#### CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Friday, April 5th from 5:00-7:00PM

Saturday, April 6th from noon-6:00PM

Sunday, April 7th from 12:30-5:00PM

Contact the office.

