

THE OBSERVER

MAY 2024



Dear friends,

What difference does resurrection make in our lives? One answer to that question is very theological: resurrection means we have life after death. But another answer is breathtakingly practical: resurrection means that our limitations, our shortcomings, and our failures don't doom the new creation that God is bringing in the world through Jesus Christ.

That's an important truth to keep in mind. Almost anything worth doing for the sake of Jesus is bound to encounter pushback. There will be the naysayers. There will be those who doubt. There might even be those who undermine or stand in the way of our efforts. And sometimes it will feel like those folks have won and that our efforts have failed. But, to paraphrase Mark Russell from our Bible Study today, "we are called to be people who live faithfully no matter what - and who then entrust the results to God." God is the Lord over the outcome of our work.

Jed Koball, one of our mission co-workers in Perú, wrote recently about a major win by Peruvians who have been fighting the deadly practices of the extractive industry. For decades, communities have tried to bring justice to that situation where so many have suffered from lead poisoning and other industry-caused illnesses. Again and again they experienced failure. Who are they against this giant multinational corporations? And yet they continued to fight, trusting that God would bring something meaningful and just out of their work. This recent court decision is a great success on this journey. But the journey is not over yet. There is still much to do. I'm inspired by our Peruvian siblings who are living out the resurrection even now.

In Christ,

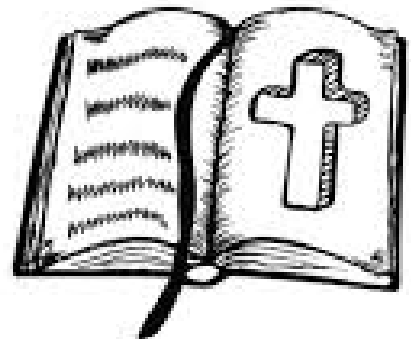
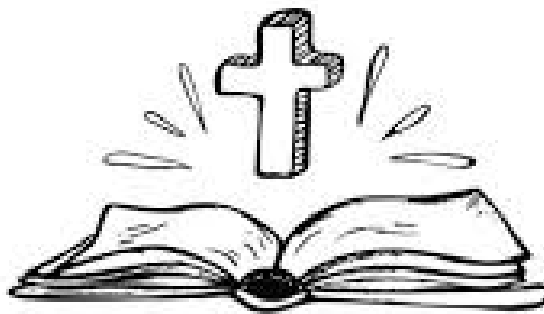
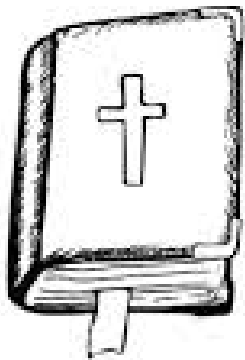
Daniel

FROM THE PASTOR



Pastor Daniel's Study Leave

I am so grateful to this congregation for affording me the time and resources to continue my education and formation as a pastor. At the end of April, I joined nine other pastors at University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill, NC for an inaugural gathering of a new preaching cohort being formed. Our time together was both challenging and nurturing. Prior to the trip, each of us wrote two papers on the scripture readings for upcoming Sundays in the church year. We spent much of our time sharing those papers and discerning how God is speaking through these holy texts. These new relationships - and the papers we wrote - will certainly aid my preaching in the coming season. Our hope is that this group will continue to meet annually for many years to come. With gratitude! - Pastor Daniel



Environmental Stewardship: Eco-Justice encourages responsible stewardship of the Earth. It calls for sustainable practices that protect ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources.



The Bible plays a significant role in shaping Christian understandings of environmental stewardship. Verses such as **Psalms 24:1** (“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof”) and **Genesis 2:15** (where humans are called to care for the garden) underscore the responsibility to protect and appreciate God’s creation.

PROTECT ALL WILDLIFE

From
the
Bible

But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you: and the fish of the sea will declare to you. - Job 12: 7-8

In 2008, Manassas Church of the Brethren in Manassas, Virginia, won the National Council of Churches' Eco-Justice Program's Green Congregation Award for Children's Ministry for its Jr. BUGS program. In this congregation, BUGS means "Better Understanding of Green Stewardship," and the Jr. BUGS program teaches children and youth how they can help care for and enjoy God's creation. As they explore ways to care for creation, they earn badges with fun names such as "Wanda Worm" (for attending to worms and other critters that help in the compost bin) and "Lucy Ladybug" (for planting and caring for seeds in the church garden).



What are some things that you can do to protect all living things on Earth?

Go online and search for organizations that have suggestions for saving ALL lifeforms on the planet.

Announcements



Happy Birthday

1 Candis Jacquin Jake Friederich	11 Amber Holt
2 Maryilyn Holt	13 Kelly Slayden
3 Jaclyn Lindquist Rue Foe	14 Debra Goskie
4 Tim Cerny	15 Lynn Boston
5 Kaleb Klette Kaylynn St. Peters	17 Waylon Dumcan Michael Carnes
6 Linda Frizzell Robert Vandalia	21 Julie Grillo
8 Karissa Joi Chapman	22 Emilia Huff
Scott Thompson	24 Ashley Cox
9 Beth Forrester	29 Viktoria Monroe
10 Katie LaMarsh Stella Lemasson (Humbert)	30 Alice Carter
	31 Heather Carnes

March 2024 LUPC Financial Notes

Checking Account Balance as 3/31/2024 \$105,855.32

Savings Account Balance as of 3/31/2024 \$14,265.18

Ending Balance as of 3/31//2024 \$123,499.02

Pledge Income Received: YTD Pledge total \$56,262.01

Mission Market Fund: The current amount in the fund \$124,203.71.

The interest rate is holding at 2.15 %

7 Month CD: The current amount in the fund \$30,000. The interest rate is 5.11%.

Let Us Come Out

Why must we be in a shell?
Let us not be locked indoors.
Our Father is calling to us.
"Children come out, I have work for you to do."
There is a job that needs to be done.
Do not be shy.
Do not be the turtle in the shell.
Our father calls.
The work begins.

Poet Laurette,
Herbert J. Peel

LoveJoy Lyceum Book Club:

Lyceum Book Club's current book is BORN A CRIME by Trevor Noah. We ZOOM it on 06/19 @ 7:15p. Our next book is A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW by Amor Towles. We ZOOM it on 07/17 @ 7:15p.

May 2024

May

June

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	5/1 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	2	3	4
5 Poverty Simulation Cinco de Mayo 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship	6 1:30p Good Samaritan	7 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Mission and Outreach	8 9a Piano Tuning 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	9 6:30p Children & Youth Christian Ed	10	11
12 Mother's Day 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a LoveJoy Children and Youth	13 9a Food Pantry 12:15p PEO Women's Meeting 1:30p Good Samaritan	14 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal	15 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom) 7:15p LoveJoy Lyceum Bookclub	16 1p ACE Committee Meeting	17	18
19 Pentecost 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Deacon's Meeting 11:30a Reception for Graduates	20 1:30p Good Samaritan	21 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal 6p Finance Meeting	22 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	23 6:30p Session Meeting	24	25
26 8:45a Choir Rehearsal 9a Adult Sunday School 10:15a Worship 11:30a Confirmation Check In 11:30a LoveJoy Children and Youth	27 Memorial Day 9a Food Pantry 1:30p Good Samaritan	28 A Place of Grace Mission Madness (tentative) ----- 9a Bell Choir Rehearsal	29 10:15a Lectionary Bible Study 11:30a Lunch Bunch 2p Sewing and Craft Circle 7p Evening Prayer (Zoom)	30	31	6/1 First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Mon



LoveJoy United
Presbyterian Church
A WELCOMING, NURTURING,
PRAYING COMMUNITY OF FAITH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

