



April 2019

THE CURRENTS — SPECIAL EASTER EDITION

"On the Road From the Cross to the Resurrection"

Palm Sunday—April 14

Worship Service at 10:00am

Maundy Thursday—April 18

Communion Service at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday—April 21

* Sunrise Service at 6:30am at the Eagle River Town Square Gazebo

* Community Breakfast at 8:30am

* Easter Worship Service at 10:00am

Eagle River Presbyterian Church

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Earthquake Recovery Update

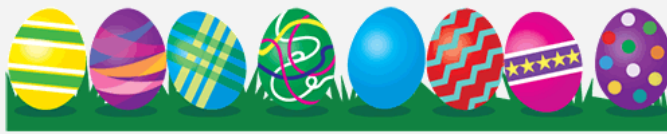
In the last month the planning team has made important progress toward completing an action plan. We have had a number of fruitful discussions internally, with FEMA and SBA, and with our insurance company. We submitted a disaster-relief loan application to PCUSA, and Yukon Presbytery agreed to co-sign our loan if necessary. With growth in mission, worship, and fellowship in mind the team compared various scopes of work for repair and renovation, considering church finances and self-help capabilities. The result will be a proposed plan of action to be provided to Session in April. A congregational discussion is planned by mid-May to provide additional input to Session. Session's decision on the path ahead, including requesting contractor bids for a specific scope of work, will follow. We ask for your continued prayers for wisdom and guidance as we work through this process, and welcome comments, questions, and input as we collectively move forward in God's hands.

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APRIL 2019



FROM THE PASTOR: Spring Notes!



Dear Friends,

As I write this we are deep in Lent, with only one more Sunday until the beginning of Holy Week when our long Lenten journey will be in its final days. This year's early spring and long warm days have made it seem that Easter is coming faster than ever, or maybe it's just that the older I get the quicker the days and weeks pass! Anyway, this Lent we've been talking about God on the move and the myriad ways that God moves towards us and acts in our lives. We've listened to Luke's account of Jesus' time of temptation in the desert, heard him teaching the disciples and crowds, and watched as Mary anointed his feet in preparation for his suffering. We heard Jesus' parables and stories, linking them with the Old Testament stories of God's deliverance of his people.

All these weeks the context has been that God is always on the move to us, even if we are staying put or even moving away from him. We've talked about Lenten disciplines of fasting, prayer and Scripture reading, and I know many of you are participating in those disciplines in one way or another. I hope that it's been a spiritually rich experience and moved you closer to God, but even if it hasn't, even if you haven't been able to keep up your practices, nevertheless God is moving towards you. God is always doing a new thing in us and through us.

The British author G. K. Chesterton says "On the third day, the friends of Christ coming at daybreak ... found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new

earth; and in a semblance of the gardener, God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but of the dawn."

What we will celebrate on Easter morning is that no matter how far away we feel we are from God, God is nearer to us than we can ever imagine, restoring and redeeming us and making us new; and not just each of us individually but all of us together. Jen Hatmaker, in *7: An Experimental Mutiny Against Excess*, writes that ... *Jesus is a redeemer, a restorer in every way. His day on the cross looked like a colossal failure, but it was his finest moment. He launched a kingdom where the least will be the greatest and the last will be first, where the poor will be comforted and the meek will inherit the earth. Jesus brought together the homeless with the privileged and said, "You're all poor, and you're all beautiful."*

The cross leveled the playing field, and no earthly distinction is valid anymore. There is a new "us" — people rescued by the Passover Lamb, adopted into his family and transformed into saints. It is the most epic miracle in history. That is why we celebrate.

That IS why we celebrate. In the 4th century St. John Chrysostom called Easter "this beautiful bright festival." It's worth celebrating, and I'm so privileged to be celebrating it with all of you!

In Christ,

Piper



Bruce Davis	3-Apr
Gretchen Clayton	7-Apr
Gail Duft	7-Apr
Nathan Walters	8-Apr
Bill Walters	10-Apr
Dean Davidson	10-Apr
Weston Braunwarth	10-Apr
Jeff Toth	16-Apr
Scott Dietrich	21-Apr
Ethan Petroccia	22-Apr
Jim Anderson	25-Apr
Kelli Toth	25-Apr
Sonya Kmak	27-Apr



Kay and Lucy Witt
April 1

Dean and Donna Davidson
April 26

Andrew and Jennifer Cottle
April 30



On Sunday, April 14th we will celebrate Allison Denton's service to our congregation. Allison and her family are moving to North Carolina this summer. Her last day in the office will be April 19th — stop by and say good-bye. Allison, we will miss you!

Spring Cleanup Event

Saturday, April 13
9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.



**CHURCH
WORKDAY**

APRIL 2019

Spring Clean-up is on 13 April 9am – 12pm. There is a list of tasks on the bulletin board. If you have them, please bring the supplies for the task you choose to take on - cleaning supplies, rubber gloves, cleaning towels, paper towels, vacuums, work gloves, wheelbarrows, push brooms, flat-bladed shovels, empty 5-gallon buckets, wet/dry shop vacs, leaf rakes, etc.



CONFIRMATIONS

On Easter Sunday we will celebrate the Confirmation of Penelope Hobbie, Abbie Spencer, Peter Hobbie and Joshua Saylor. These young people have been working and studying with our pastor since last fall, using the new PCUSA confirmation curriculum *Big God, Big Questions*. They studied Scripture every week, did significant homework, constructed individual statements of faith, and memorized the Apostles' Creed and a psalm. They will meet with the Session on April 16th to share their statements and be examined for church membership. During Easter worship we will celebrate their journeys and welcome them into the formal life of our church. Praise God for his faithfulness in their lives and ours!



It is with great sadness that I have to say good-bye. I have loved working for ERPC. I will miss each of you dearly. My time here has been an experience of growth in so many ways, not in just my work skills but in my personal life as well. I have learned to use my creative side (never knew I had one) and put together eye catching displays and newsletters, and I have learned how to work and be a mother at the same time and even though it is only a part-time job it had its challenges. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to have been apart of the ERPC Family and hold you all close to my heart. If you would like to drop a line and say hi my email is daqueenkat@hotmail.com and phone is 808-778-5158.

Until we see each other again...

Always,

Allison Denton



Second Annual Concert Event

Alaska Celtic Pipes and Drums will be sharing their music with us on Thursday, May 16th at 7:00 pm in our Sanctuary. Bring your friends and neighbors and let's support our local Bagpipe band.

Garden/Landscape Committee

Members Needed!!

Get some dirt on your hands and join the Garden/Landscape Committee this year. Brent Koenen will be head of the committee, and we are so lucky to have him do so. He takes great pride in the garden and ensuring that the church grounds always look its best.

This year the Food Pantry and Trustees are working with a Boy Scout troop to build us compost bins as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

We will not be adding any additional raised beds, but if you have any extra large pots that you would like to donate, we will use them to grow extra potatoes.

This year the plan is to grow pea pods, potatoes, carrots and green beans. All the produce that comes from these garden beds go directly to the Chugiak/Eagle River Food Pantry to be distributed to the people in our community in need.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Brent Koenen at 306-3516 or bekoenen@mtaonline.net



**You care
for the land
and water it;
you enrich it
abundantly.**

Psalm 65:9, NIV

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EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SPRING REFLECTIONS

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