The Heavenly Herald

"We will share the love of our Lord, building on our past, reaching in faith toward our future."

A letter from the Pastor...

APRIL, 2024

God will fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy. - Job 8:21

Dear Friends of FUPC Houston,

Historically, the Monday after Easter Sunday was known as *risus paschalis*, Latin for Easter Laugh. Early orthodox churches began a tradition of gathering on the Monday following Resurrection Sunday to tell jokes as a way of marking Easter as the ultimate joke God played on Satan by defeating death with life.

Fortuitously for us this year, the Monday after Easter Sunday is April 1st, also known as April Fools' Day. A great day to laugh, celebrate, and rejoice at the overpowering love of God that conquered the grave through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It's not just on Palm Sunday where we waved Palms and shouted loud Hosannas, but Scripture is full of examples of God's people being moved and even called to laughter, dancing, and great rejoicing. Going back to Sarah who said, "God has made me laugh. Everyone who hears will laugh with me" (Genesis 21:6) and then named her one and only son Isaac – "One who Laughs."

"We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy. And the other nations said, 'What amazing things the Lord has done for them." - Psalm 126:2

"I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" - John 15:11

These are just a few examples of God's desire for us to be a joyful people filled with new life in Jesus Christ. May the best example be the people of First U.P. Church in Houston for always laughing, dancing, and singing songs of praise to the one true God!

On Monday, April 1, please enjoy an Easter Laugh in the name of Jesus.

Happy Easter! He is Risen! Pastor Ben

First United
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> **Custodian** Robin Spiker

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April 3rd	Jordan Simpson	April 4th	Collin Westcott
April 4th	Austin Cochran	April 6th	Hunter Bigler
April 6th	Jacob Sapienza	April 8th	Sarah Wallace
April 8th	Jenna Marshall	April 9th	Daniel Sapienza
April 10th	Darlene Crumrine	April 10th	Heather White
April 11th	Joan Jones	April 11th	Bill Plunkett
April 11th	Kevin Cushey	April 12th	Patti Nagy
April 13th	Chris Tonarelli	April 13th	Neal Isiminger
April 14th	JJ Jardini	April 15th	Donna Park
April 15th	Christine Mechtel	April 15th	Tyler Keenan
April 16th	Jennifer Baxter	April 16th	James Baxter
April 18th	Betty Matthews	April 18th	Linn Blosel
April 19th	James Orbich	April 19th	Kyle Fee
April 19th	lan Simms	April 21st	Daja Durkacs
April 22nd	Esther Kusic	April 22nd	Brooke Simms
April 23rd	Tyler Weber	April 23rd	Phoebe Mechtel
April 25th	Audra Spinnenweber	April 26th	Jared Scott
April 27th	Emily Anestis	April 28th	Michelle Amos



April 16th - Leon & Linda Young April 25th - Ben & Randi Greely April 26th - Steve & Tina Colletti April 16th - Sam & Tera Washabaugh April 26tyh - Harlan & Melissa Shober April 27th - Jim & Dodie Hanna

PRAYER LIST

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS:

Darryl Beton, Rich (Pepsi) Witmer, Barb Burnetti, Tom Setto, John Orlando, Mindy Kelley, Brandon Craig, Darren Spiker, Cat Morgan, Rev. Don Austin, Tim Lynch, Melanie Donahoo, William Young, Patti Nagy, JoAnn Pitcock, Amanda, Matthew Scears, Brad Pitcock, Brian Baumgardner, Bill Brown, Sophia Desmond, and Bill Ensley.



APRIL PRAYER REQUEST:

Dorie Nicholls, MaryAnn Clark, Jackie Shober, Aurora, Sandy & Jack Simpson, Lance Baker & Family, Dan Browning, Robert Ward, Loraine Julius, Joyce Orlando, Charity, Cathy Lynch, Patty Goldbach, Pastor Melody, Nancy Magera, Bell Family, Evelyn, Bob Washabaugh, Marion Marcase, and Curtis Marcase.



PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR:

Pastor Ben and our Houston Church Leaders, Our Nation and our Nation's Leaders, and all unspoken requests of our church family.

May Newsletter Articles due by Monday, April 22, 2024

SERVING THE CHURCH IN APRIL, 2024

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, April 7, 2024.

GREETERS

Deacon Greeters:	Elder Greeters:
April - 7th	<u> April - 7th</u>
(MV) Nancy Youmans	(MV) Bo Lesjak
(GV) Virginia Bayne	(GV) Pastor Ben
(GH) Janice Blosel	(GH) Jan Taylor
April - 14th	April - 14th
(MV) Nancy Youmans	(MV) Pastor Ben
(GV) Virginia Bayne	(GV) Gloria Schmalz
(GH) Mark Skirpan	(GH) Karen Jones
April - 21st	April - 21st
(MV) Dodie Hanna	(MV) Linda Young
(GV) Janice Blosel	(GV) Volunteer
(GH) Virginia Rockwell	(GH) Pastor Ben
April - 28th	<u> April - 28th</u>
(MV) Virginia Rockwell	(MV) Volunteer
(GV) Sandy Wallace	(GV) Pastor Ben
(GH) Haley Steere	(GH) Jonnie Swarow

Music: Karen Jones Audiovisual: Leon Young

Liturgist: Bob Blough

<u>Trustees:</u> <u>March Acolytes:</u>

Bob Arnold & April - 7th - Bridget Layton
Linda Young April - 14th - Eden Jeffers
April - 21st - Mako Morgan
April - 28th - Baker Libert

NURSERY SCHEDULE:

April 7th - Kristie Coppola April 14th - Sandy Wallace April 21st - Vicky Lesjak April 28th - Ashley Layton

PASTOR BEN'S APRIL READINGS

APRIL 7, 2024 2nd Sunday after Easter COMMUNION SUNDAY

> Psalm 133:1-3 1 John 1:1-2:2 "What Have You Heard?"

APRIL 14, 2024

3rd Sunday after Easter

Psalm 4:1-8

Acts 3:12-19

"Sleep On It"

Soup and Sandwich Fellowship After Worship!

APRIL 21, 2024
4th Sunday after Easter
Psalm 23:1-6
Acts 4:5-12
"No Good Deed"

APRIL 28, 2022 5th Sunday of Easter Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 "What Is Love?"





HONORING REV. CRAIG KEPHART A TIME OF REFRESHMENT March 10, 2024

For all that he has done for the people and Churches of Washington Presbytery!





WELCOME NEW MEMBERS MARCH 17, 2024



Mary Lou Briggs &
Nicholle Hollenbach

Welcome New Members!



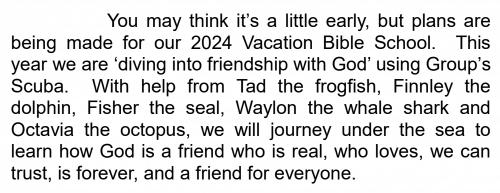
Isabella Hollenbach

Baptized on March 17th

Welcome Isabella!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

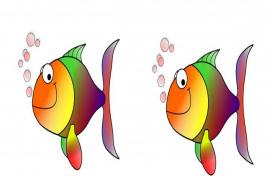


We need everyone's help to get the word out and reach as many kids as possible. So save the dates, June 24-28 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm, and pass this on.



We can always use extra fins, I mean hands, so consider helping out. See Sandy Wallace to find your place in the sea!

See Registration Form on page 9.



The week will be filled with stories, songs, crafts, science, and snacks.

<u>Volunteers are always welcome and needed to lead and guide children</u>.

Station Leaders Sea Guides will lead groups of children to each station.

VBS is open to children 4 yrs of age through sixth grade. To register: Please complete the information below and submit.

You can also register online at houstonpresbyterian.org (VBS Tab)

Questions? 724-746-3040 or email: secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

First United Presbyterian Church, 102 North Main Street, Houston, PA 15342 Join us for VBS June 24-June 28, 2024 - 6:00pm - 8:30pm

REGISTRATION FORM	
Student's Name:	Age:Grade
Address:	
Allergies/Medical Conditions:	
Special Friend wishes to be with:	
Father's Name:	Phone:
Mother's Name:	Phone:
In case of an Emergency and neither parent can be reached:	
Name:	Phone:
Name:	
compensation for publication of photo use.	Deter
Parent/Guardian/Volunteer's Signature:	Date:
l do not permit photos of my child to be shared:	
Parent/Guardian/Volunteer's Signature:	Date:
would like to volunteer as: Crew Helper	Site Helper
l am available to volunteer on:Mon Tue	WedThuFri
Name:	
	Phone:
Email:	Phone:

TVC 171 Clate Mandaled Clearances to Volumeer. Clearances are 1712 for Volumeer

Obtain at: https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home

or https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp







SAVE THE DATES:

Soup & Sandwich Fellowship - April 14, 2024
Following Worship, in the Social Hall.
Bring your friends and families.
Dring your menas and families.
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Ascension Of The Lord
May 9, 6:00pm
Potluck Dinner and Worship
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
<u>Vacation Bible School</u> - June 24 - 28, 2024 6:00pm - 8:30pm
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
Mission Trip to Beckley, WV Week of June 17, 2024 Look for details in upcoming Bulletins.
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Rise Against Hunger
September 28, 2024
Meal packaging event at the Morris Community Center.
Look for details in upcoming Bulletins.

IRA - Qualified Charitable Distributions: A Tax-Efficient Way to Donate Money To Charity

Now that we are in the tax filing season, I wanted to pass on some brief information on Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). A QCD is a withdrawal from an IRA that's made directly to an eligible charity.

If you currently are taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from your IRA account, you may want to consider making your annual donation to the church or other charities through a QCD. A QCD counts toward your RMD for the year, and it is made tax free thus avoiding you paying income tax on the distribution.

The funds are transferred directly from the IRA custodian to the eligible charity (501(c)(3) organizations and houses of worship). You must remember to let your tax preparer know how much of your total annual distribution was for a QCD so that it can be reported as such on your income tax return and excluded from your taxable gross income.

We have numerous members currently utilizing this tax favorable method of donating to our church.

If you would like any additional information on the benefits, or how to make a QCD from your IRA, feel free to see me or Bob Blough.

Buddy Jeffers Treasurer

EASTER EGG STRAVAGANZA! MARCH 23, 2024









APRIL- 2024



Sunday School - 9:45am Worship - 11:00am Bible Study, Tuesday 10:30am

					1
28-	20-	14-Soup & Sandwich Fellowship following Worship	7-Communion Sunday		
29-Session Mtg. 6:30pm	21-Admin. Mtg. 6:30pm	15-Mission Mtg. 6:30pm	8-Ministry Mtg. 6:30pm	1-Office CLosed	Mon
30-	22-	16-	မှ	2-Deacons Mtg. 6:00pm	Tue
	23-	17-	10-	φ	Wed
	24-	18-	11	4	Thu
	26-	18-	12-	បុ-	Fri
	27-	19-	13-	6-	Sat



Address Service Requested

Nonprofit organization
U.S. Postage
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Secretary Ext: 310

secretary@houstonpresbyterian.org

Meals on Wheels Ext: 314
Open Door Nursery Ext: 311

Website

houstonpresbyterian.org

Sunday School

Sunday School Begins Sept.18th at 10:00am

Sunday Worship Service September —May at 11:00 a.m.

June-July-August at 10:00 a.m. Nursery Available

Bible Study

Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

