The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard, Associate Pastor

It is hard for us to believe that the “new addition” is about 12 years old and that it is time to raise funds to keep our facility updated, in good repair and to care for areas worn by good use. My how time flies!

The theme of the new Capital Campaign, Building Together, Forever, is one that encourages us not only to think about the present needs, but to plan and commit to our future. Some congregations choose to focus more on mission offsite rather than spending monies on a building complex, but over these last years I have come to see how our building contributes to and promotes mission not only for our congregation, but in our community and far beyond.

In March the building was hopping one Sunday morning as we had a brunch for 20 new confirmands, their families and mentors in addition to worship and Sunday School classes. Dozens of people were picking up BBQ items they purchased to support the Adult Mission Trip to Hattiesburg, MS, while that afternoon the AIM band had a concert to raise money for the school district music program. This month, Rob’s office is filling up with items for the Sr. High mission trip auction fundraiser. Those who volunteer at the Welcome Center can tell you how much fun it is to see the energy of the children who come to Preschool. We also hosted a successful fundraiser for a preschool educational program in our community with a dinner and Trivia night (see page 5 for more information on that venture).

On Wednesday afternoons one can see LOGOS youth gathering for a program that ends with a family style meal, or you might hear trumpet, piano or organ lessons taking place. With our newly configured sanctuary, groups such as STL Metropolitan Orchestra and the National Lutheran Choir ask to present their programs in our space. While we offer support groups such as Grief Group and Dementia Support that are directly connected to our congregation, community groups such as the Parkinson’s Support, Friendship Force, scouting events, and Meals on Wheels meet in our space. Take one look at our calendar and you will catch a glimpse of the many ways our building provides space for mission, learning, and service in addition to worship.

How blessed we are to be able to do this! Your additional giving will enable us to maintain and invest in our future mission offering of our building as well as continuing to be a very special worship place to “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.”

With Gratitude,

The Rev. Dr. David Holyan, Pastor

The Budding Energy of Easter

The other day, as I took our dog out for her morning business, I noticed a plant in the corner of the yard that was covered with green buds. The sight of it took my breath away. Spring is coming! The doldrums of winter are transitioning to the hopefulness of spring. As I continue to contemplate the invitation of those tiny green buds I realize there is such a powerful theological message for all of us as we transition from the season of Lent into Easter: just when we think nothing is happening, new life is coming!

In his exposition on the power of being made righteous through faith, Paul begins the sixth chapter of Romans: What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

While the power of the Spirit is constantly at work in and through us, at Easter we celebrate the power of the resurrection at work in and through us. During Lent we celebrate or acknowledge the dormancy and expectancy of life—the necessary periods of fallowness that precede the emergence of new life. At Easter we sing with joy that life has burst through the bonds of death and dormancy, the fallowness of loss gives way to new growth. We celebrate the hope and reality of ‘new life’ blooming forth in and through us.

So let us wait, patiently, as we continue on in what looks like dormancy but is anything but. Let us continue to prepare for the budding energy of Easter that brings new life to us all.

Peace,

David
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

April 7, 2019 - 5th Sunday in Lent
Sermon: “Tending the Presence” - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: Isaiah 43:16-21 and John 12:1-8

In this passage from the Gospel of John, we have one of Jesus' more troubling sayings, “You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.” He says this following Mary's audacious act of anointing his feet with perfume and Judas' condemnation of her action. On this last Sunday of Lent, we will explore what it means to attend to the Holy in our lives, even in the face of righteous criticism.

April 14 2019 - Palm Sunday
Sermon: “The Beginning of the End or The End of the Beginning?” - The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard

The gospel reading from Luke is the familiar passage of Jesus’ Final Entry into Jerusalem. While it seems odd to celebrate the arrival of a king on a mere donkey, we are reminded that there is a great deal going on in this story. In the days ahead, some will be surprised, others disappointed and angry, while others still will experience grief turned to joy. We are called to be part of this journey and consider what it means for us and how it shapes our faith.

April 21, 2019 - Resurrection of the Lord
Sermon: “I Didn’t Know It Was Jesus” - The Rev. David Dr. Holyan

Mary remained at the tomb long enough to finally recognize Jesus raised from the dead. Mary's actions at the tomb can teach us valuable lessons about how we can apply the power of the resurrection in our lives. Rather than fleeing from problems, we just might need to stay close to the areas of brokenness in our lives in order to see God at work.

April 28, 2019, 2nd Sunday after Easter
Sermon: “The Gift of Peace Be With You” - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: Acts 5:27-32 and John 20:19-31

Hidden in the parable of the fig tree are multiple nuggets of good news. We will explore the various elements of grace buried within this story that Jesus shares with his followers. From the fact that it is a fig tree planted, to the gardener, the fertilizer, and the patience demonstrated with the story, we will examine the many facets of grace and goodness hidden in this passage from the Gospel of Luke.

From the Director of Music Ministries

Our Lenten observance will move toward Holy Week and Easter this month, and we can sense the Spring stirrings of the Earth. New life and resurrection awaken in us joy and gladness as we sing “Alleluia!” once again.

Of course, before shouts of Alleluia burst forth, we walk the final journey with Christ. Do take part in worship on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. Immerse yourself in the richness and depth of these holy days. Participation in Holy Week will fill our Easter celebrations with amazing beauty.

See the list of music opportunities on page 5. Do join us throughout the month for these wonderful performances and programs. All are welcome. Have a happy and blessed Spring!

Faithfully yours,

Bill

| April 14: | Palm Sunday | 8:15 | Sanctuary |
| April 14: | | 9:05 | Fellowship Hall |
| April 14: | | 11:00 | Sanctuary |
| April 18: | Maundy Thursday | 6:30 | Fellowship Hall and Chapel |
| April 19: | Good Friday | Noon | Chancel Choir and Orchestra performance of Morten Lauridsen's “Lux Aeterna” in the Sanctuary |
| April 21: | Easter Sunday | 8:15 | Sanctuary |
| April 21: | | 9:05 | Fellowship Hall |
| April 21: | | 11:00 | Sanctuary |
Youth Ministry

Senior High Youth
April is all about the Auction! Students put in the time to make this event happen for you - they do all of the setup and cleanup. Students want this event to be the best it can be and appreciate the way that you support them! After the Auction, we will start focusing on the trip itself - starting with meal planning and work ideas.

Confirmation
Our Confirmation students joined the church on Sunday, March 10th. We will share their Class Creed and a little bit about each of the students in this space in the May edition of the Pres.

Rob Monroe - Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries - rmonroe@kirkwoodpres.org
SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

COMBINED SERIES: 9:30a.m. in Room 030

Sundays, April 7, 14, and 28: We will feature the return of Christopher Saxton, a history teacher from Ladue Horton-Watkins High School who brings interesting insights on historical events and people who shaped the history of our nation. The Civil War was a divisive time that crossed family and denominational lines. Saxton will share and explore with us the impact and events of the Civil War period in our nation's history. PLEASE NOTE: This is a joint class that will meet from 9:30-10:30a.m. in the Fireplace Room.

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS LECTURE SERIES: COMING IN MAY

What one biblical scholar calls Israel’s basic credo begins like this: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor”. The reference is to Abraham – in short, wherever Abraham went, he was an immigrant! Later in the biblical narrative, Moses led a whole nation of immigrants toward a Promised Land. Given these memories, it is no wonder that Israel’s Torah regularly advocates compassion for the “sojourner” or “alien” or “immigrant”. In this study led by Clint McCann, Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, we’ll consider Israel’s narrative, legal, and prophetic traditions, along with the stories of Ruth and Esther and several New Testament texts. The goal will be to develop a biblical-theological background for thinking about immigration from a faith perspective.

May 5: The People of God Among All God’s People: *Image of God, Incarnation, and the Face of Christ*

May 12: A Wandering Aramean Was My Ancestor” (Deut. 26:5): *Remembering Immigrant Origins and Treating Immigrants with Justice and Compassion*


BIBLE STUDY & BOOK GROUPS

Fourth Wednesday Book Group: We will be discussing the book, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, by Rachel Joyce, a touching story of a man determined to walk 600 miles to deliver a farewell message to someone from his past.

Men’s Bible Study: First Pres men of all ages are invited to join us Saturdays at 10:45 a.m. in Room 029. All men are welcome, no matter your knowledge of scripture or where you are in your faith journey. We take turns reading aloud, ask questions, discuss what the Holy Spirit might be saying, and even share in laughter. Call Robert Trottmann at 314-909-6779 with any questions.

Work Camp Auction - April 14th!

Our Senior High Fellowship students will be heading to the Washington, DC region, for Work Camp - two weeks of work in and around the city. We are taking about 35 students on the trip this summer! The Work Camp Auction, which includes a sit down dinner, silent auction and live dessert auction, is coming up and we are in need of new or gently used items for the silent auction, go ahead and bring them! We are in most need of an experience like sports tickets or a vacation spot for a few days. Contact Rob with questions or ideas at rmonroe@kirkwoodpres.org.

The Deacons are looking for some additional items and support:

*Medium and small vases are needed for flower arranging after worship to be taken to those who are shut ins or those in the hospital—please take the vases to the sacristy or the Welcome Center desk.

*Put Monday, April 8 on your calendar for our Spring Blood Drive. If you are unable to donate blood, we can always use help at the sign-up table or help during the day of the drive.

* We’d love to have additional volunteers help with the live-streaming of our worship services on Sunday morning. It’s very easy and training is cheerfully provided. Contact Frank Darr at frankdarr@gmail.com.

As always we thank you for your continued support of the Deacon’s Fund, Meal A Month and KirkCare.
Music Performances and Opportunities, April 2019

April 5: **Tree of Life Chapel Lenten Recital Series, 12:00p.m.** - Debra Hillabrand, mezzo soprano and Bill Stein, piano present “The Biblical Songs” by Antonin Dvořák.

April 7: **The Con Spirito Concert Series presents: The Black Tulip Chorale, 3:00p.m.** - St. Louis's first and only free-standing LGBTQUIA-friendly chorus that welcomes singers of all gender identities and sexual orientations. This program is titled “Put a Little Love in Your Heart: 50 years from Stonewall” and will feature the Requiem by Gabriel Fauré.

April 12: **Tree of Life Chapel Lenten Recital Series, 12:00p.m.** - The Crusell Quartet (violin, viola, cello, and clarinet) will perform music by Bernard Crusell and Jean Sibelius.

April 19: **Good Friday, 12:00p.m.** - The Chancel Choir and Orchestra will present Morten Lauridsen's “Lux Aeterna” in the sanctuary.

April 28: **The Second Sunday of Easter** - We will celebrate Music Appreciation Sunday today!

April 30: **The Parkway South HS Choirs Spring Concert, 7:00p.m.** - All are welcome to attend. There is no admission cost.

Name that Tune Trivia Fundraiser A Huge Success

Last month's **Name That Tune** trivia fundraiser was a sell-out success! We raised $4,230.00 for Kirkwood Area Every Child Promise, enjoyed a delicious "Fat Tuesday" themed dinner and had a great time. Here is an excerpt from a note we received from the organization's president: “We can't thank you enough. The money raised that evening will change the lives of local families and will help our local children thrive. We are so thankful for your continued partnership and for your commitment to caring for our community!” Thank you to the church members who bought tickets and to the dedicated First Pres volunteers who made the event a success. Special thanks go to Craig Wilde for the meal and to Ray and Ginny Lester for creating such an entertaining game.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) is one of four special offerings that the PC(USA) asks its churches to support throughout the year. A gift to OGHS enables the church to share God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed by way of grants to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self Development of People, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. OGHS is typically received during Lent or on Easter Sunday but you may give at any time by writing a check to the church earmarked for “OGHS”. Special envelopes will be in the pews a couple of weeks prior to Easter. Please give as generously as you are able.
The congregation extends its deepest sympathy to:
* The family of Lee Will who died on January 24, 2019
* The family of Jean Clodfelter who died February 25, 2019
* The family of Blaine Ulmer who died February 27, 2019.
* Robin Hudson on the death of her mother, Mary Lou.
* As we continue to extend our sympathy to the family of Judy Coons, a service will be held on Saturday, April 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

The Dementia Discussion Group will meet on Saturday, April 20 at 10:00 a.m. downstairs in room 028. If you have any questions, contact Alice Bowen: asquare812@hotmail.com or David Evans: davidevansma@yahoo.com.

The Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the lounge. For more information contact Ellen Hitschler at ln4cats@yahoo.com or Mary Ann Shaw at mashaw5@sbcglobal.net.

SPRING BLOOD DRIVE
We will be hosting our Spring Blood Drive on Monday, April 8 from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. A sign-up table to give blood will be in the hallway following church services on March 31 and April 7. You may also call the church office. Please come donate if you are able. If not, come keep us company. Contact Peggy Collins with questions at 314-822-4857.

BREAKFAST CLUB
On Thursday, April 4, Rev. Susan Andrews, who was moderator at the 2018 General Assembly, will speak to us on Presbyterianism. Breakfast is at 8:00 a.m., cost is $2.00. Please join us if you are able.

FROM THE VISITOR/NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE
Lent will bring an abundance of visitors and family guests to church. Please extend your best 1st Pres welcome – one in which they really "feel at home!"

First Pres is a big and active church! It is difficult to put a name and a face together, so please take some time for fellowship each Sunday. Also know that help is on the way so stay tuned - A First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood pictorial directory!

If you know of someone that is interested in joining our church or wants more information, please don't be shy about asking someone to meet with us in the church lounge at our next New Member Information gathering sessions @ 10:00 a.m. - 3/31 and 4/7. Joining Sunday is 4/14 (Palm Sunday) at any of our worship services.

Active participation: - Your help is needed!
One way for you to participate in supporting our Know No Strangers perspective, would be serving as a door greeter-- great way to renew acquaintances with members, but also a way to welcome visitors to our building and worship services. If you are interested in door greeting, -- Please look for a sign up sheet in the area between the Welcome Center and the Gathering Space. Consider greeting with a friend – It is a great way to catch up with all the goes on in our busy lives!

New Member and Welcome Committee: Brad Gift, Al Murray, Leah Engelhardt, Kristy Mitchell, George Durnell, Karen Blanchard

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EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS
If you would like to make an Easter Flower Dedication, please fill out and tear off this form. You may mail it to church or place it in the offering plate on Sunday.

(suggested donation $25 each) Due in the church office by Friday, April 12.

In honor/celebration of: ___________________________ or

In memory of: __________________________________

Given by: ______________________________________

Phone # and/or e-mail: ____________________________
### APRIL 2019

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