**First Presbyterian Newsletter April 2024**

**It’s Time! – by Kimby Young**

In Greek there are two words for time - chronos and kairos. Chronos refers to minutes, hours, days, calendars - the way we count and measure sequential time - chronological time. Kairos refers to an opportune moment or decisive time - a special occasion or period of determination or destiny. In the Bible this term is used of God's time, God's work in the world, a time of awareness and opportunity God gives to you.

Here at church, we are experiencing both chronos and kairos. As the calendar clicks on past Easter, we are sitting at the edge of a magnificent time of resurrection. New life is ready to spring forth. God's promised plan is just waiting to unfold.

The thing about a resurrection is that new life follows death. Easter only comes because of Good Friday. Sometimes, one thing has to end in order to allow a new life to be born. I am very aware of beginnings and endings right now. I plan to retire in just over two years. In some ways that is a very long time. In other ways that is the blink of an eye. I am aware of all the changes that must come for this congregation before I leave and just after I leave, so that you will be able to enter the new life God has planned for you with a new pastor. It's a tricky time. We want to hold on to all that is good, while making room for all that is so much better.

As a congregation we have entered Kairos time - a time of opportunity, a time for God to work miracles among us, a time to seek God's will for the mission and future of this church. Your session is listening and looking for God's guidance. We plan to experiment in the next few months, to try some new things in order to care for one another and to reach out into the world. Our goal as a church is to share the love of God and the good news of Jesus Christ. The question is how best to do that in our world today and tomorrow. God is leading. We are trying to follow. It is exciting to see where we will go and how we may serve. Pray with us and for us. Let us trust God and step forward in faith.

**Scripture for Upcoming Worship**

April 7 – John 20:19-31 – Peace Be With You

April 14 – John 21:15-19 – Do You Love Me?

April 21 – Acts 4:32-39 – How to Live in Love

April 28 – John 11:17-44 – Unbound Resurrection

May 5 – Guest Preacher Kristin Austew – Presbyterian Chaplain St. Luke’s Plaza

**Suggestion Box**

Session has established a "Suggestion Box" just outside the office for ideas, comments, questions, and thoughts. Contents will be reviewed at session meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month. **Names are helpful if we need to follow up**, but you may remain anonymous. This is one step among many that session will be taking to try to listen to congregational opinions and needs as we plan for the future. We are currently creating an “on call” schedule for elders to be available on Sunday mornings between services. The idea is to listen to joys and concerns, and to share current issues from session. The goal is open communication and input in the mission of our congregation.

**Fellowship for All**

We are trying to reestablish a “fellowship hour” after the first service every Sunday. We are asking various groups and individuals to volunteer to host one week of each month. If you are willing to help, make coffee and set up treats, or to clean up at 11 or noon, please contact the church office.

**Mission Pillar Hygiene Kits from Heart to Heart International**

Our hands-on mission project for April is to put together hygiene kits for people in emergency situations. We have raised enough donations for 153 hygiene kits. You may still contribute for more kits. Heart to Heart International will provide the supplies and help us with the set up. Everyone is invited to come to the fellowship hall to help put the kits together. Watch the bulletin for the time and date of the Mission event to assemble kits. All ages and abilities, members, and friends, are welcome.

**Monthly Financial Report**

At the end of February 2024 our records indicate:
total income this month is $ 28,694.94

total expenses this month is $ 26,650.44

The session and finance/operations pillar thank each of you for your contributions to the church – financial or any other contribution. A complete line-by-line expense report is available upon request. We will close finances for March after April 2.

**Vacation for Pastor Kimby**

Kimby will take a week of vacation from April 29 to May 5. Guest preacher for the week May 5 will be Kristin Austew who is a chaplain at St. Luke’s on the Plaza. Kristin is a Presbyterian minister ordained in 2014, married, mother and gifted in many ways. Be sure to come and welcome Kristin to worship.

**Prayer Request** – *family of Mike Fraser, family of Dennis Patton, family of John Mangen, Susan Gash Jim Applegarth,**Josh Schichtel, Jason and Sherry Smith*, *Karen Erwin, Poppy Zurcher, Bea Judah, Karen Elliott,* family *of Mary Dean, Carl Ray Williams, Jeff Boyd, LaVersa Goucher Larrick, Dennis Chambers, Susan Wilsom-Dierksen, Karl Morrison, Dustin Toman, Jerry Seim, Abe Portenier, Jon Deiley, Amanda Allen, LeMoyne Zimmerman, Mike Judah, Dozer Reed, Trinity D’Autorio, Skyla D’Autorio, Jackson Tigerine, Reagen Barnadt, Steve & Laurie Holben.*

**New Address for** Juanita Murrow, Benton House of Olathe, 15700 W. 151st St. Room 213, Olathe, KS 66062 (913) 490-3841.

**Men’s Breakfast** on Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00 a.m. at Perkins.

**Women Fellowship Group** will meet on Wednesday, April 3 at 10:00 am. in Fellowship Hall. Please join us for a morning of fellowship, including devotions by Donalie Zimmerman and refreshments by Teri Winegar.  All women of the church are welcome.  The women’s Fellowship Group meets March through November in Fellowship Hall.   Our purpose is to provide care and support for the mission and service projects of the church.

**The Annual Spring Brunch** will be held on Saturday, April 27 at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall. Join us for a delicious brunch and fellowship followed by a program presented by Jeff Waters, who has just returned from Nicaragua, and will be speaking about Project H.O.P.E and his experience there.

Signup sheets are available in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there.

**The 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women** will be held August 8-11, 2024, in St. Louis, MO. This event is held every three years bringing women together in fellowship. Reservations open up in early March. Please see the poster in the Narthex for detailed information and a signup sheet for anyone who may be interested. A planning meeting will be scheduled soon for those interested in attending.

**Presbyterian Youth Fellowship (PYF) Mission Trip** Sunday, April 21, for the chicken & noodles dinner in Fellowship Hall. We will serve 11:30am -1pm. Profits go to the 2025 Youth Mission Trip.

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| A colorful logo with black text  Description automatically generated**Store Hours****MONDAY 10 – 7****TUESDAY` 10 – 7****WEDNESDAY 10 – 4** **THURSDAY 10 – 7****SATURDAY 10 - 2** |
| **Saturday Volunteers Desperately Needed!**Saturday is an extremely busy day with more traffic in the shopping area and also is busy at the back with increased donations. **Please consider giving us from 1 to 4 hours of your time**. We need people in the back to bring in donations and to sort. Thank you!! Open 10 to 2 on Saturday. |
| **Wednesday Cashier from 1-4 Needed!** Please come in and talk to a manager. This is a great opportunity to work with great volunteers including a cashier assistant. You will experience shoppers who appreciate what we do and love coming in to get items for their families. |
| **Annual Volunteer Dinner****A plate with a fork and spoon and a spoon  Description automatically generatedAll volunteers are invited!** We would like to invite all of our Volunteers and family to our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on **Friday April 19th at 6:30 pm** at the First Presbyterian Church located at 138 E Shawnee St., Gardner KS. All food and drinks will be provided, you can bring a dessert to share if you would like.   We do ask that you **please sign up** on the signup sheet that will be on the **work station area. The Joy Closet Board thanks you so much for** **Volunteering with us at Joy Closet!** |
| Free Clipart Volunteers Needed | Free download on ClipArtMag**Daytime Cashier Opening**JOY Closet is in need of a person who is willing to train for cashier and fill in occasionally for a regularly-scheduled cashier. It’s a great opportunity to get acquainted with our volunteer staff and become knowledgeable about the procedure at the register. **The hours will be few and you will be very much appreciated!!** |
| **JOY-ful Moments*** **A recent shopper with a voucher for free merchandise thanked our cashier as they checked out. She said that she appreciated everyone being so kind and blessed us for helping them.**

We don’t always hear how appreciative people are, but it is heart-warming when it does happen. * **A woman came in and purchased four $5.00 JOY Closet gift cards. She was going out into the community and handing them out to random people in Gardner!**

There is something about the atmosphere of people helping people that seems to spread. **We are blessed to be in the position to assist others.** |
| Beneath the Cross - An Empty Tomb - Triumphant Love Lutheran Church**For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me.****Matthew 25:35-36 NIV** ***JOY Closet Is a ministry of******First Presbyterian Church of Gardner, KS******Serving our community since 2013*** |