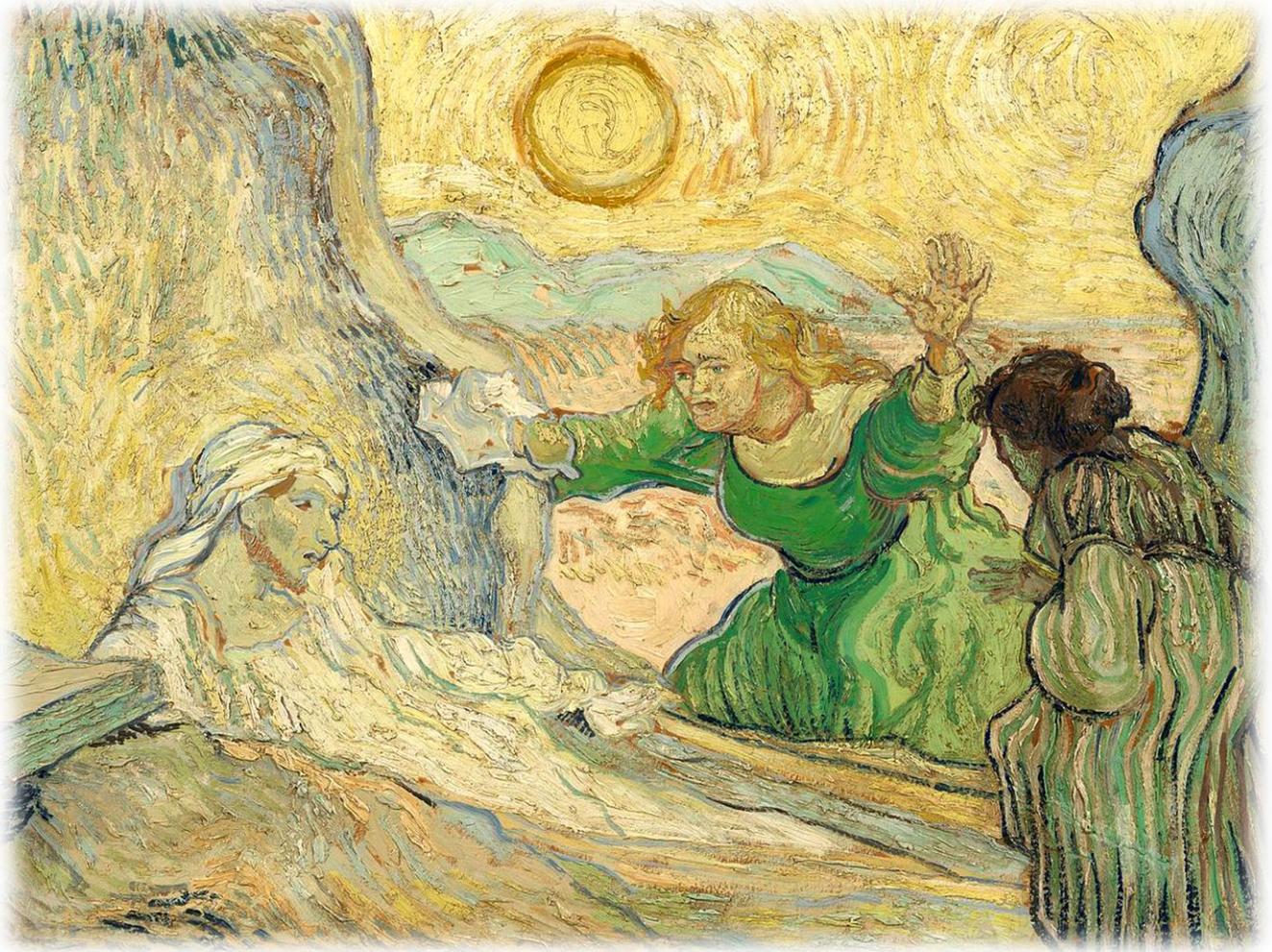


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2026 | 10:30am

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way • Charleston, WV 25301 • 304-343-8961 • www.firstpresby.com

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers

Ministers: All members of the congregation

*A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.
May the gift of worship we offer honor God and serve as a blessing to you.*

We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the ends of the pews. We use this information to keep in touch about church events. We hope you will take a moment to read about news and events happening in the life of the church, found in the worship bulletin after this morning's order of service. Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors!

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

A reflection for worship:

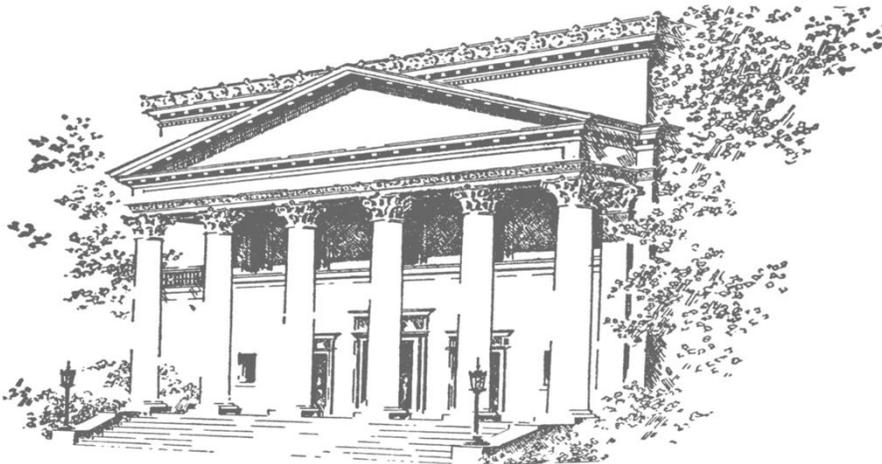
*"Where there is despair, God brings hope; where there is death, God brings life."
— Karl Barth*

The following scriptures are provided for silent meditation during the prelude:

Ezekiel 37:1-14 • Psalm 130 • Romans 8:6-11 • John 11:1-45

Cover art:

Raising of Lazarus (1890)
Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890)
Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands



*Seek the welfare of the city where I
have sent you...
and pray to the Lord
on its behalf for in its welfare you will
find your welfare.*

Jeremiah 29:7

The Worship of Our Lord

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

**indicates congregation standing, as able.*

PRELUDE In the Hour of Trial Vivian Vevenger

INTROIT There in God's Garden SHADES MOUNTAIN
This is my ending; this, my resurrection; into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy.

WELCOME Pastor Myers

MINUTE FOR MISSION One Great Hour of Sharing Candy Strader & Mary Ann Schacht

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Candy Strader

One: Come, all who feel weary - all who feel abandoned. Come to the God who speaks life into dry bones.

All: Out of the depths, we cry to you, O Lord.

One: Even when God seems absent... God's Spirit is at work among us

All: We wait for the Lord, our hope and our salvation.

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Candy Strader

All: O God, we praise you for showing up in the middle of our fear, for bringing hope when everything feels hopeless for standing with us in our grief and tears. We adore you for your Spirit that revives our weary hearts, for your Word that calls us to life, and for your Son, who meets us where we are and leads us forward. All glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #475** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing NETTLETON

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Myers

One: When life is hard, we do not always trust God's presence. Like Mary and Martha, we sometimes say, "Lord, if you had been here..." Yet the God who hears our cries also meets us with mercy.

All: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin together.

Merciful God,

We confess that we do not always trust you.

When hope feels distant, we doubt your presence

And live as though death has the final word.

Forgive us.

Breathe your Spirit into our weary hearts,

And call us out of the tombs we have made.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Pastor Myers

One: Hear the good news! The Christ who called Lazarus from the tomb calls us into new life today.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ my God; all the vain things that

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Pastor Myers

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Candy Strader
page 806, Old Testament

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 130

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Candy Strader
page 573, Old Testament

ANTHEM

Out of the Depths I Cry Unto You

Robert Lau

Out of the depths I cry unto you. Lord, hear my voice.
 If you but trust in God to guide you with gentle hand through all your ways,
 You'll find that God is there beside you when crosses come, in trying days.
 Trust then in God's unchanging love; and build on the rock that will not move.
 Lord, hear my voice.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 11:1-45

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Myers
page 104, New Testament

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Myers

Birth – K may meet in the Nursery (Room 114) for a lesson and a snack.
Children in grades 1–5 are dismissed to Children’s Church in Room E–117/119
or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

SERMON

“From Death to Life — Even When God Feels Absent”

Pastor Myers

***HYMN #194**

When Jesus Wept

WHEN JESUS WEPT

We will sing this hymn twice. Between each singing, the choir will offer a brief anthem.

*Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beautiful feet, which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace.
Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat; to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.
In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears; nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.*

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Myers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Myers

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (vs. 3)

PASSION CHORALE

What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,

Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Please bring your offering forward during the offertory.
You may also text "firstpresby" to 73256 to give from your mobile device.

OFFERTORY Jesus Wept David M. Cherwien

***OFFERING RESPONSE #607** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.* OLD HUNDREDTH

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION** Pastor Myers

GO FORTH TO SERVE

***HYMN #286** Breathe on Me, Breath of God TRENTHAM

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Myers

POSTLUDE Postlude in A minor (from *École d'Orgue*) Jacques Lemmens

OUR WORSHIP CONTINUES IN OUR SERVICE TO OTHERS

Worship is broadcast on Sundays at 11:00am on WCHS 580AM
Worship is also available on our YouTube channel: First Presby WV
Follow us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church Charleston, WV

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers
Candy Strader
Mary Ann Schacht

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Feibelman

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
The Sanctuary Choir

Service music is reprinted under CCLI License No. 3604127.

THE STAFF OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

William Myers, Pastor/Head of Staff
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Jenny Pitchford, Financial Services Manager
Susan Smith, Christian Education Coordinator
Diana Vorhees, Office Administrator
Chelsea Greathouse, Office Assistant

Anne Moses, Director of the Preschool
Erin Stone, Preschool Office Administrator
Bernard Wooten, Preschool Custodian
Curtis Allen, Preschool Custodian
Steven Barrett, Facilities Manager

EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Bring a side dish or dessert to the annual potluck Easter breakfast on April 5th in the Dining Room starting at 9am.

FLAT JESUS ADVENTURES

Grab a flat Jesus from the back table in the sanctuary, color him and take him with you on your spring break adventures, sports games, recitals, etc! Then send your pictures to diana@firstpresby.com.

SUNDAY ADVENTURE IN MARCH

Come roller skate with us this Sunday March 22nd from 2:00 – 4:00 in the Activities Building Rec Room. Roller skates for children and adults are provided. There will be music, lights, and fun! If you have any questions or concerns please contact Susan Smith, Christian Education Coordinator. You can reach Susan by email susan@firstpresby.com or phone 870-665-2128.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth group will meet every second Sunday from 3:00 – 5:00. There will be fun, food, fellowship, and Faith Formation. This group is for middle school and high school students. If you have any questions please feel free to talk with Susan. Our Next Meeting is Sunday, April 12th

FAMILY RESOURCES

Show them your faith matters even when you are not in church on Sunday. We have created two pocket sized resources for your family when you are not able to be in worship; “One Minute Sabbath” and “Devos on the Go.” Nurture their faith and yours; pick up one or both.

VBS SAVE THE DATE

This year’s Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 1st – Thursday, June 4th from 5:00 – 7:00. Come join us for “Kids Who Make a Difference to Neighbors Near and Far.” More information coming soon. To find out more or to volunteer contact Susan Smith, Christian Education Coordinator. You can reach Susan by email susan@firstpresby.com or phone 304-343-8961.

PRAYING FOR OUR PARTNERS IN CUBA

The PC(USA) Cuba Partners Network is asking for prayers for our siblings, congregations and ecclesial structures of the Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada en Cuba and for the people in Cuba.

“Our invitation is to let our requests be known to God for health and well-being of all who live in Cuba, for courage and strength for our siblings in their witness and community presence, and for wisdom and increased faith for those who lead and guide the Presbiterio del Centro, the Presbiterio de Matanzas, and the Presbiterio de La Habana.

May the example of God, who made the divine present with and alongside the disenfranchised of the world, make us resolute in our prayers, actions, and presence with and on behalf of the people of Cuba, and for a nation – theirs and ours – that truly lives up to its promises of solidarity, well-being, peace and dignity for all.”

EGG HUNT

The Christian Education Committee will host an Egg Hunt after church on Palm, Sunday, March 29th for children. The children will hunt for eggs that contain Easter symbols. Each child will leave with six items that represent a part of the Easter story. Don't forget to bring a basket. If you have any questions please contact Susan Smith. You can reach Susan by email susan@firstpresby.com or phone 870-665-2128.

MISSION UPDATE: 40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS Returns!

As of Monday, March 16, we have collected and delivered 1,925 food items to Covenant House! Thank you, First Presby, for addressing the hunger problem in our community as we continue to support 40 Cans for 40 Days.

Last year's **40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS**, our Lenten outreach, was a great success. Together, we collected and shared hundreds of canned goods that were delivered to Covenant House to help our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. Imagine the amount if each of us contributed 40 items during the 40+ days of Lent!

Use the following list to help organize your shopping, *and **please bring your donations to the church during the week or on Sunday mornings.**

OUR SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Week 1: Peanut Butter and Jelly

Week 2: Canned Soup and Canned Pasta, Sauce

Week 3: Canned Fruit and Dry Fruit (raisins, etc.)

Week 4: Canned Meat (Spam, sausage, chicken); Tuna

Week 5: Canned or Dried Beans and Rice

Week 6: Cereal, Canned/Dry Milk, Pancake mix, Syrup

DATES

Week beginning **Sunday 2/22**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/1**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/8**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/15**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/22**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/29**

***Suggestion from Covenant House:** *In order to maximize your shopping dollars, check the Dollar Tree for shelf-stable milk, cereal, pancake mix, syrup.*

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matt. 25:40)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The efforts supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees – serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are underway in more than one hundred countries, including the United States and Canada.

COFFEE FAIR TRADE

The Palestinian Olive Oil is unfortunately discontinued BUT we still have plenty for sale in the shop! Stock up for a great hosting gift or for Easter cooking. The Hope and Justice Fair Trade Shop is open during office hours and on Sundays from 9:00-noon. During office hours, please see the office staff to shop. On Sundays, please put your cash or check in the provided envelopes on the table in the shop and put them in the drop slot in the door by the Panera table. We are keeping it stocked with all your favorites! Only cash and check are accepted at this time.

LENTEN MEMORIALS

First Presby is accepting contributions to our Worship Memorial Fund in honor or in memory of loved ones. Please look for the Lenten Memorial envelopes in your pew and designate checks for Lenten Memorial Fund. Contributions and names of loved ones received in the church office prior to Wednesday, April 1st will be printed in a special insert for Easter worship bulletins. These Lenten Worship Memorials are used to beautify the sanctuary with potted flowers for the Easter season and provide for special music. Thank you for your gift.

LIFT: WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM

Everyone is welcome to join us for a free dinner and a time of fellowship starting at 5:45pm. After dinner children K-5th can attend a class just for them. This 45 minute fast paced class uses the *Growing in God's Love* curriculum which includes a Bible story, an activity, and music. Adults can choose to attend Pastor Myer's class or stay in the dining hall and continue fellowshiping. At 7:00 we celebrate communion in the Chapel; this short 15 minute worship service is for all who wish to attend.

LIFT AFTER DARK with PASTOR MYERS

March 25 WEEK 5 — “Reforming How We See Our Neighbor”

Compassion, Justice, and Civic Life

Purpose: Apply a Christ-shaped lens to relationships, community, and public life (without turning it into partisan debate).

Topics:

- Christian call to justice (Hebrew prophets, Jesus, James)
- Caring for neighbors we like... and don't like
- Handling political differences in Christlike ways
- Discernment vs. outrage
- Truthfulness in a misinformation culture

Engagement:

- Case studies:
Situations involving immigration, poverty, racial tension, or civic disagreements.
Groups answer: *What would Christ see here? How would he respond?*

Goal: Help people move away from gut-level partisanship toward thoughtful Christian discernment

PRESBYTERY CHURCH PRAYERS

Each week we pray for other congregations in our presbytery, along with the Presbytery of West Virginia and other ministry partners. This week please pray for Mill Creek Presbyterian Church and Second Presbyterian Church in Huntington.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, March 22

9:15am	Discovery Class	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
2:00pm	Sunday Adventure – Roller Skating	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
6:00pm	Baccalaureate Meeting	<i>Dining Room</i>
7:00pm	Concert Series – “Still, My Soul Sings”	<i>Sanctuary</i>

Monday, March 23

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Tuesday, March 24

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
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Wednesday, March 25

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
12:15pm	Lenten Organ Recital	<i>Sanctuary</i>
1:00pm	Women’s Lenten Bible Study	<i>Ruffner Room</i>

Thursday, March 26

8:00am	Shoney’s Group	<i>Zoom</i>
11:00am	Shepherd Center Luncheon	<i>Dining Room</i>
4:30pm	Time for Refreshment	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:30pm	Bell Choir	<i>Choir Room</i>

Friday, March 27

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Saturday, March 28

Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday

9:15am	Discovery Class	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:30am	Worship – Palm Sunday	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
11:30am	Palm Sunday Egg Hunt	<i>Chapel</i>

DISCOVERY CLASS

Mar 22	“The Word” – Sallie Daugherty
Mar 29	HospiceCare – Sierra Jones, Community Liason
April 9	Easter Sunday – No Class

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, March 22	John 8:46-59
Monday, March 23	Mark 9:30-41
Tuesday, March 24	Mark 9:42-50
Wednesday, March 25	Mark 10:1-16
Thursday, March 26	Mark 10:17-31
Friday, March 27	Mark 10:32-45
Saturday, March 28	Mark 10:46-52

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 29

10:30AM - WORSHIP
11:30AM - EGG HUNT

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 2 | 6:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY

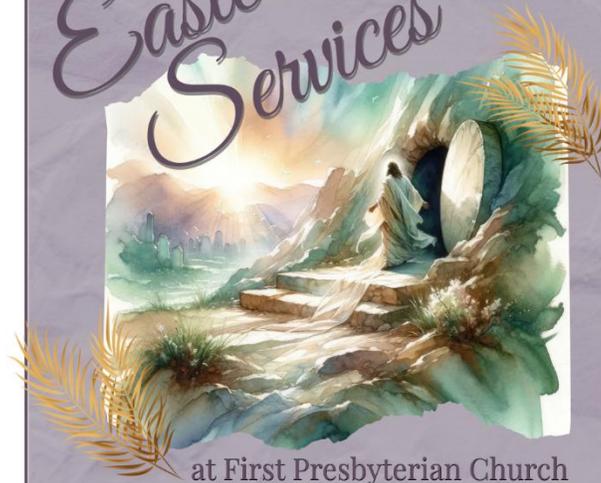
APRIL 3 | 6:30PM

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5

9:00AM - POTLUCK BREAKFAST
10:30AM - WORSHIP

*Easter
Services*



at First Presbyterian Church

All are welcome!



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**

