

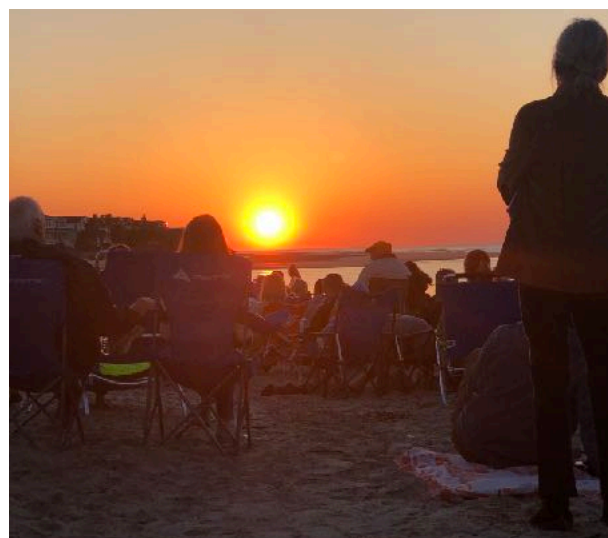
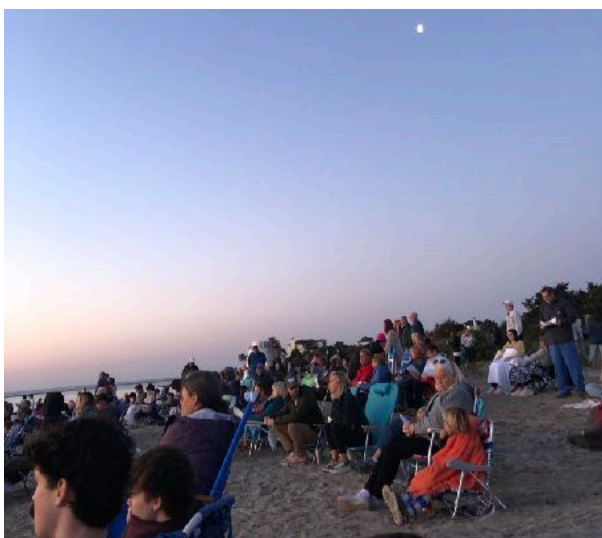
The Beacon

Sunrise Presbyterian Church

April 2024 Newsletter



*Breach Inlet
Sunrise Service*



He
Is
Risen
Indeed!

Hope for the World: Past, Present, and Future

On Easter morning, I preached a message of *hope*. In our turbulent world, hope appears to be in short supply. Messages of despair dominate the news and social media. My message was about finding *hope* in our troubled world.

The past is a witness to God's goodness at work in the most challenging of situations. The Apostle Paul knew all too well the risks and dangers of his mission. In his letter to the Church in Rome, he distilled the essence of his faith and hope in God.

*Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our **sufferings**, knowing that suffering produces **endurance**, ⁴and endurance produces **character**, and character produces **hope**, ⁵and **hope does not disappoint us**, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Romans 5:1-5)*

Recently, I heard a phrase that inspired me and applies to all of us as Christians. It was shared by two-time NBA champion and former U.S. Senator, Bill Bradley. When asked how he kept a positive attitude when he was facing the challenges of serving in the U.S. Senate with all the negativity around him, he simply replied: *You see, I'm in the optimism business!* He went on to describe his upbringing in Crystal City, Missouri, and how he had been raised to embrace all of life's possibilities. By any measure, his life has been remarkable.

Looking to the long history of our *resurrection faith*, I can say with full confidence that God is at work all around us, especially in the most challenging of times. To borrow Bill Bradley's statement, as Christians: *WE are in the Optimism Business!*

There is a picture of a half-filled glass of water on the cover of Gregg Easterbrook's book, *The Progress Paradox: How Life Gets Better While People Feel Worse*. The theme of the book is well described in its title. Our contemporary crisis can be characterized by how we choose to describe half-a-glass of water. Is it *half full* or is it *half empty*? Believing there IS hope is the dilemma facing us. Recognizing that our challenges are, sadly, nothing new in human history offers us the possibility of embracing hope.

In the prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, we are provided guidance in how hope can push back against despair:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; and
where there is sadness, joy.*

As we look to the future, our hope rests where it always should, trusting God's love in Christ Jesus that spans the generations. It is the witness of all the faithful that has come down to us from past generations that sustains us today. It is that witness that inspires us to be hopeful for future generations.

On Easter Sunday, those generations were represented in our sanctuary. I baptized an infant, whose mother had been baptized as an infant on an Easter morning. Sitting in the pews was a woman about to celebrate her 101st birthday. The joy shared across the generations was truly inspiring. We are in the optimism business!

In God's grace,

Vance

Lent 2024

*A time of reflection, repentance,
and preparation for the
celebration of the resurrection of
Jesus Christ.*



Photos are from the Palm Sunday Service, Easter Egg Hunt & Fellowship and the Seder Meal.





Sunrise Cub Scout Pack 59 Pinewood Derby

Our Cub Scouts participated in the annual Pinewood Derby Race in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday March 23rd. The Fellowship Hall was as noisy as a NASCAR race, but not from the cars. Each Cub Scout received a kit containing a block of pinewood, two axles and four wheels. With this kit the Cubs carve, paint and decorate their race cars.

Our track has 4 lanes with the race cars being released at the start line at the same time and electronic speed measurement at the end of the track. There were multiple runs to determine the winners. Winners received trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishes based on speed, as well as prizes for the best design and for the sibling race series winners. Winners from our Pack 59 move on to the Cub Scout District Pinewood Derby on April 13th to compete against Cub Scouts from other Packs.

Sunrise Columbarium and Memorial Garden

Progress continues toward finalizing the design and quotes for the columbarium garden. The Construction & Maintenance Committee has contracted with Willow Tree Design to develop the landscape design. They are providing their service pro bono. We are grateful for their donation and generosity. The columbarium company will use the landscape design to finalize the design for the columbarium and the final quote. Decisions about the landscape/construction company and the columbarium company are expected to be made this month. The names of the companies will be communicated as soon as the decisions are final.

Also, the Niche Sales & Donations Committee has begun developing informational material about the columbarium. If you have skills in graphic art, marketing or advertising, and if you would like to help, please contact Ralph Byers at ralphbyers@gmail.com or at 917-273-6173.

We look forward to sharing updates about the project. Contact Ida Havelka, Columbarium Committee Chair, at ihavelka@comcast.net or at 843-412-1884 for more information.

**APRIL
7TH**



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

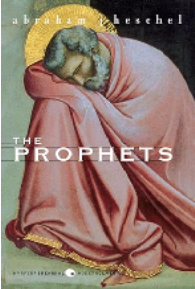
The One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering is Sunday, April 7th

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing 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. Across the world, millions of people live on less than \$1.25 a day and have to survive on very little to no food. By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, you're supporting programs working to provide those in need with food and safe water, relief to those affected by crisis and catastrophic events, and the tools necessary to improve their lives.

April at Sunrise

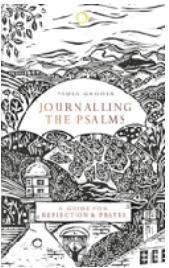
Growing FAITH

Growing Faith will meet April 21st at 9am in the upstairs classroom. Please feel free to share this message with any older elementary & middle school students (4th - 8th grade) you know who might be interested in joining. ~ Reece



The Adult Sunday School will continue their study using the book *The Prophets* by Abraham Heschel on Sundays at 9:00 am in the Library. *The Prophets* is widely recognized as a masterpiece of biblical scholarship. Heschel attempts to understand the thoughts, feelings, and impressions of each of the prophets, presenting the reader with a sense of their very being.

The Miriam-Naomi Circle will meet April 9th at 10 am in the Library using the book *Romans Learner Session Guide: Books of Faith* by Matthew J. Marohl. The church has the books available for purchase. Please see Pastor Vance to get your copy. We welcome new participants in the Circle. After we meet, those of us who are able to do so usually regroup for lunch at a nearby restaurant. If you have any questions or if you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call Patsy Hindman at (843) 906-8653.



The Women's Evening Bible Study will continue their study at 5:30 pm on April 16th using *Journaling the Psalms: A Guide for Reflection and Prayer* by Paula Gooder. New participants are always welcome.

Cents-Ability is collected the 2nd Sunday of each month. Thanks to you, donations have been made to Neighbors Together, East Cooper Meals on Wheels, and East Cooper Community Outreach. Please continue to give at least two cents per person per meal in the bowl in the Narthex. This simple act is an expression of thanksgiving for what we have received.



Start off your Tuesdays with the Jerry Dillon Men's Prayer Breakfast at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Start the day off right with great food, fellowship, and a devotion.



2 Keaton Murray

2 DiAn Kempf

2 Mallory Jeffers

4 Sabrina Fehon

4 Blake Belicka

5 Logan Catalana

6 Ken Russell

6 Donna Hainley

6 Tom Bigelow

6 Will Heffernan

8 Gale Vancleave

9 Steve Heckart

9 Jon Mersereau

10 Jon Regan Walters

11 Marcy Fields

13 Courtney Hardwick

15 Kurt Nendorf

16 Barbara Raley

16 Susan Johnson

16 Davis Goforth

17 Dickey Dingle

19 Frank Godfrey

22 Isabel Taylor

22 Tracy Barnhart

22 Griffin Catalana

24 Kelly Hinton

25 Pete Page

26 Rebecca Hooper

26 Hunter Murph

27 Jane Yaman

28 Caden Boggs

29 Charlie Clark

29 Angie Fehon

29 Talia Holliday

29 Matt LaTorre

29 Katie LaTorre

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>31</p> <p>7am - Sunrise Community</p> <p>8:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>10am - Easter Service</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1:30pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6:45pm - Seaside Singers</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11am - Bridge - Fellowship</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>8:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>9am - Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9am - Fellowship (Fellowship)</p> <p>10am - Family Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9am - Veritas Class</p> <p>1:30pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6:45pm - Seaside Singers</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10am - Miriam-Naomi Circle</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9am - Veritas</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11am - Bridge - Fellowship</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Church Parking lot usage</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Cenfs-Ability</p> <p>8:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>9am - Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9am - Fellowship (Fellowship)</p> <p>10am - Family Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9am - Veritas Class</p> <p>1:30pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6:45pm - Seaside Singers</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>5:30pm - Women's Evening</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9am - Veritas</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11am - Bridge - Fellowship</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>8:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>9am - Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9am - Fellowship (Fellowship)</p> <p>9am - Growing Faith - Family</p> <p>10am - Family Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9am - Veritas Class</p> <p>1:30pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6:45pm - Seaside Singers</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9am - Veritas</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6pm - Battery Gadsden</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Outer Banks - Evening Usage</p> <p>11am - Bridge - Fellowship</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>9am - Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9am - Fellowship (Fellowship)</p> <p>10am - Family Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>4:30pm - Boy Scouts -</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9am - Veritas Class</p> <p>1:30pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6:45pm - Seaside Singers</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am - Veritas</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11am - Bridge - Fellowship</p>	<p>4</p>

Church Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

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