

Heritage Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 4 APRIL 2017

5323 Bells Ferry Road, Acworth, GA 30102
Phone: 770-926-3558



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Worship: Sundays 8:30 am
11:00 am
Sunday School 9:45 am

Called by God's grace to make disciples, as we minister to the needs of a broken world

A Message from Pastor Elizabeth Lovell Milford

One of my favorite things to do at amusement parks is to ride roller coasters. I have a slight fear of heights, so the initial climb is sometimes harrowing, but the thrill of racing downhill, twists and turns, and even going upside down makes it all worth it. My favorite kinds are the ones where your legs swing freely, which for me brings back the fun sensation of swinging on a playground. I didn't always like roller coasters, though. As a child, I had to be coaxed to even try them, and I remember gripping the lap bar with white knuckles. The first few rides were rough. I didn't know what to expect with each new style of coaster. The first time a standing coaster was introduced, I was convinced it was my last ride ever because the seat didn't fully lock into place until just before the first drop. Things were new and unfamiliar, which in some ways added to the fun, if I was able to convince myself that things would all be fine in the end. Now, I look forward to these attractions, and even like riding the same coaster multiple times in a row, trying out different spots to have a different perspective or experience of the ride.

If we think about the season of Lent as the slow initial climb, then Holy Week is our roller coaster ride. Packed into only a few days, we experience the most dramatic twists and turns of our faith story. Palm Sunday takes us to the top height with a glorious celebration of Christ as King, marked with the waving of palms and the shouts of Hosanna. Maundy Thursday, we coast alongside the disciples at the Last Supper, and then

on Good Friday plummets us down to the lowest point as we grapple with the darkness of the crucifixion. The ride jerks to a halt in that darkness, letting the gravity of the moment truly sink in. Then, on the third day, we are vaulted and propelled into the light of Easter morning. The tomb is empty – Christ is Risen! Breathless, we are able to celebrate that all of the wildness of our journey has come to an end, and has led us to a place of peace and security.

Like a roller coaster, this week can be a wild ride. It can be uncomfortable and even scary in places if we allow ourselves to be fully drawn into the richness of the story. But doing so can deepen our faith and make us more appreciative of that moment when the ride is over and our feet are again on solid ground. This year, as a congregation we will have several special services to guide us through this ride. I invite you to consider joining us for each service, so that you can experience all of the twists and turns that our gospel story has to offer, and proclaim the good news on Easter morning with the spirit of one who has been along for the ride. I guarantee you the end result will be worth it.

Peace,
Elizabeth

WORSHIP

April 2
5th Sunday in Lent
Ezekiel 37:1-14
The Gift of Breath

April 9
Palm Sunday
Matthew 21:1-11
The Gift of a King

April 13
Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm

April 14
Good Friday 7:30 pm

April 16
Easter Sunday
John 20:1-18
I Have Seen the Lord

April 23
2nd Sunday of Easter
John 21:1-19
Breakfast with Jesus

April 30
3rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2: 42-47

Our Common Life



"Breakfast With Jesus"

Sunday, April 23 our children are invited to to celebrate the Resurrection with a special guest the Sunday after Easter!

Our children will begin at 9:45 am, as always with Praise Kids, then journey to "the beach" to meet our special guest and enjoy breakfast.

Praying as a Congregation

Here at Heritage, we are a community that prays with and for each other. Whether in choir rehearsals, Sunday School classes, meetings or worship, much of our time is marked by prayer.



Our prayer chain shares news and prayers, and makes sure that those prayer requests shared with us are lifted to God throughout the week. **On the first Sunday of the month, our full prayer list is printed in the bulletin insert**, and as we celebrate communion we remember that we are joined by Christ with believers in every time and place, including those for whom we pray. **On other Sundays of the month, our bulletin insert includes those new to the prayer list that month, but the full prayer list is printed and available in the Narthex.** Each Sunday, you are invited to write your prayer requests on the blue cards found in each pew so that they may be included in the day's prayers of the people and then added to our prayer list as well.

This is a ministry of which every member can be a part. All you have to do is pray! Consider making prayers for our congregation and its members and friends a part of your regular prayer life. In doing this, we will become a community of faith that lives into the calling put forth by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, let us pray!

Heritage Presbyterian Church HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP

Palm Sunday
April 9, 8:30 & 11:00 am

Celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem! All children are invited to help lead a palm processional during the first hymn as we praise Christ the King!

Maundy Thursday Dinner
April 13, 6:30 pm



Remember the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples with a potluck dinner wrapped by casual worship service with the celebration of communion. Our time will be interactive, and children are welcome. Please sign-up in advance to help make sure we have enough seats.

Good Friday Tenebrae
April 14, 7:30 pm



Experience the darkness of the Passion story. Through Scripture, drama, and song, we walk along the road to the foot of the cross as Christ gives up his life for us. Childcare is provided for young children.

Easter Sunday
April 16, 8:30 & 11:00 am



Christ is Risen! Rejoice in the good news! Worship today will include the celebration of communion. Nursery care and children's chapel is provided.

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Have You Ever Wondered Why the Lily is The Flower of Easter?



The magnificent white lily, known as the Easter Lily, has long stood as a symbol of purity, hope, innocence, and peace. Also called the Bermuda lily, the Trumpet lily, and Jacob's Tears, the Easter lily is a biblical flower commonly associated with the resurrection of Christ. The Easter lily is not to be worshipped; however, the lily can be used as a sign to represent new life. Tradition states that the Easter lily originated in the Garden of Eden by the teardrops of Eve that she spread while leaving the Garden of Eden. They were teardrops of repentance. For the Christian, the Easter lily is used in a positive sense and represents many things. The Easter lily is representative of Christ's resurrection. It speaks of purity and innocence, being untainted by the water. The Easter lily also represents a new season, a new birth, such as when one comes to Christ.
(Thank you Ken & Diane Miley)



Fun filled musical learning with instruments (keyboard, bells, and more), singing, movement, creative arts, outdoor play and healthy snacks included! For more info contact Debbie Boyd Music Teacher, Heritage Handbell Director, Private Piano Instructor
678-910-5384 , bells@heritagepres.com
Register by April 1 and each camper receives a \$10 discount!

REMINDERS

- April 2-5 Youth Mission Trip to Huntsville, Alabama
- April 23 Spring Brunch benefit for Santa's Caravan and Georgia Boy Choir both services
- April 30 HPW Spring Gathering



COMING SOON.....



Don your cape and plan to soar in for Heritage Presbyterian's Hero Central Vacation Bible School June 11- 15. Registration information for participants and volunteers coming soon!



HPC'S LIBRARY NEWS

Several books have been added to our library recently... books on Moral Ethics, Christian Living, Personal Problems and many others. A very interesting one in History (section 14) is titled "The Lost Boy of Sudan", an American story of the refugee experience, authored by our own Mark Bixler. Over the years our library has grown and continues to grow with generous donations. Come and visit and take home a good read.



Spring Music Festival

Sunday, May 7, 2017, churches of Cherokee Presbytery will come together to hold an evening of fellowship, music, food and praise at the First Presbyterian Church of Marietta. The evening provide an opportunity for each Cherokee Presbytery church to share a musical offering presented by their choir (adult, youth, children or bells), ensemble or instrumental group. A festival Concert, open to the public, will feature hymn singing, performances from different churches and a mass choir selection.

For additional information please contact Debbie Boyd (Festival Committee Member) 678-910-5384.

Jay Weaver Food Pantry News

School Pantries are Growing !

Thanks to the never ending efforts of Director, Andrea Dean and the blessed generosity of our congregation, HPC's J. Weaver Food Pantry now supports two school pantries, the RedHawk Pantry at Clark Creek Elementary School and new this year, the Etowah High School Food Pantry.

During the 2016-2017 school year, the RedHawk Pantry served between 50 and 60 students , sending home between 5 and 11 pounds of food designed specifically for the students each weekend. A total of 8,400 pounds of food over the course of the school year. In addition, each student received a bag of snacks in their weekend bag. This was due to a grant that Andrea wrote and was awarded from the Service League of Cherokee County. Way to go Andrea!

This school year the RedHawk Pantry is serving an average of 50 students per week and has already served over 7,500 pounds of food. The Etowah High School Pantry's first year is off to a great start!

Spring Brunch to Benefit Santa's Caravan

Sunday, April 23, 9:45-10:45 am in the Education Building bring your family and friends to enjoy worship with special music



from the Georgia Boy Choir at both services.

Between the services, we will have our annual Spring Brunch.



Donations will be accepted for the 2017 mission work of Santa's Caravan. Tables will be set up for you to relax and enjoy your breakfast at several indoor and outdoor locations. You will also be welcome to take brunch with you to Sunday school classes. Let's continue to celebrate the resurrection by gathering together with family and friends to hear God's word for us, enjoy beautiful music, and partake of delicious food.

Big news from and for Santa's Caravan

This year, there will be some changes to Santa's Caravan, but our mission will remain the same:

1. We will still provide Christmas for as many children as possible.
2. We will still provide each child with toys and clothes.
3. We will still conscientiously strive to make each child's wishes come true.
4. We will still continue to work with the counselors to best identify our families.
5. We will still need all of HPC to pull to together to make this mission happen.

What we are hoping to change is the work level for the congregation and the number of times that we request contributions from HPC. This means we will NOT be holding our annual Santa's Caravan BBQ and silent auction. Our only traditional fundraiser will be the Brunch on April 23, 2017 so please bring your family and friends. We WILL be raffling off baskets and gift certificates from outside sources several times during the year. A few dollars-worth of raffle tickets in support of our cause could land you a very nice basket or valuable gift card, all while helping support children in need this Christmas.

Our most important way of providing angels' gifts will still be through the Angel tree, from HPC members as well as our friends in the community. Look for more information at the end of the summer about how you can help us expand the reach of Santa's Caravan to our community. If you have any questions about the changes or any suggestions for Santa's Caravan, please see Susan Korbett. Thank you for all that you have done in the past for Santa's Caravan. With your help, we are looking forward to another successful year of smile making.



Would you like a pictorial directory? Contact the church office for a copy. Also, watch the bulletin for details about the Directory app that will soon be available!

HPW Spring Gathering

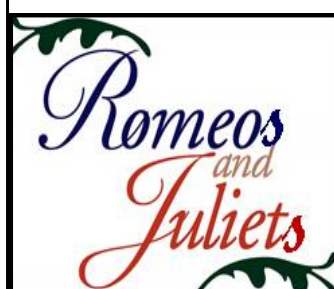
Heritage Presbyterian Women will hold their annual Spring Gathering, April 30, 2017, in the M&M building directly following the 11:00 am service.

Come join the women of HPC for lunch and enjoy informational presentations from HPC's Food Pantry, Clothing Closet, Santa's Caravan and the Youth Script program. Lunch by Tom Simmons. Cost \$10.



Romeos

Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 11:30 am at the Olive Garden, Barrett Pkwy. For more information call 770-424-3668.



Juliets

Thursday, April 6, 2017, 12:00 pm at Tea Leaves & Thyme, Main Street, Woodstock. Contact Carol Brown to reserve your spot!