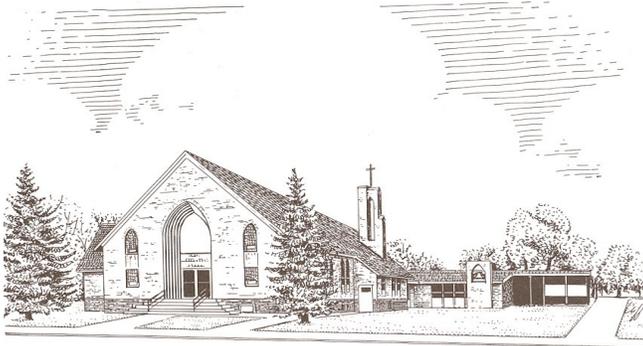




# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

123 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
Conrad, MT 59425  
(406) 278-3043

April 2021 Newsletter  
[www.conradfirstpres.org](http://www.conradfirstpres.org)  
[compres@3rivers.net](mailto:compres@3rivers.net)



Sunday Worship at 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM

Office Hours are Monday through Friday  
9:30 AM to 12:30 PM



## Join us for Holy Week Services



**Palm Sunday:** March 28 at 11 AM

**Maundy Thursday:** April 1 at 7 PM  
with Lord's Supper Celebration

**Good Friday Tenebrae:** April 2 at 8 PM

**Easter Sunday:** April 4 at 11 AM  
with Lord's Supper Celebration

### APRIL LAY READERS

April 1	Bonnie Flesch
April 2	Helen Stordahl
April 4	Karen Burditt
April 11	Martha Orcutt
April 18	Pat Keil
April 25	Phyllis Hammermeister



### DEACON'S LIST

April 1	Volunteers
April 2	Volunteers
April 4	Elsie & Jeanne
April 11	Bonnie & Dale
April 18	Amy & Karla
April 25	Carol & Barb
May 2	Della & Elsie

## FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

I'm expecting this letter will arrive to you in the midst of Holy Week — the week in which we remember the Passion of Christ. On Palm Sunday, there was great excitement as Jesus headed into Jerusalem. The people were expecting a king in the sense of an earthly king who would ride into Jerusalem and free them from the oppression of their Roman occupiers. Further, he should restore the nation and people of Israel to the former glory of their first kings — King David and King Solomon. They placed their cloaks down on the road for him to ride over, and they waved palm branches and placed them, also, on the road.

Jesus had been telling his followers for a long time that the story would be very different. He would have to be killed and would be raised from death. He had even raised people out of illness, demon possession, and even death as a demonstration of God's miraculous power and plan. Even on the first Palm Sunday, Jesus riding on a donkey was a sign that the people's plan was not God's plan. A great king in a worldly image would have ridden in on a magnificent horse and not on a donkey.

As the week continued, the people turned on him and yelled out "Crucify him!" That would indeed be his journey. Earlier, he asked his disciples to pray with him, and they fell asleep more than once, and even Peter denied him three times as Jesus predicted. He was tortured, ridiculed, and crucified in just several hours.

Taken to the tomb, though, on the third day he rose from the dead, and the outcome would be far better than what the people desired — at least for the long term. God had exercised a plan that through Jesus' own suffering, his people could be reconciled to God and have eternal life. His people would be invited to continue his work as he created the fullness of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

I offer that there is another sort of dissonance that is similar in our day. We have moved from the Enlightenment, where it was believed that everything would eventually be predictable through physical laws into Post-Modernism where this predictability is denied and where truth becomes subjective.

This shift in our culture has been a challenge in the church as the church does claim an objective and absolute reality. We claim there is a God that desires a relationship with God's creation. God has expectations of us that are documented in his revelation to humanity as found in the *Holy Bible*. We claim that Jesus, both God and human truly came to the earth, lived as one of us, lived a perfect life, and died so that we may be forgiven and have eternal life. He invites us to invite others into relationship with him.

Similar to the hopes of the people of Jesus' day, this is antithetical to the culture. It isn't us who define God — he isn't subject to us, but it is God who defines us — we are subject to God.

It's common in our day for people to define who their "god" is — sometimes taking descriptions from multiple religious traditions including Christianity. But, I offer that this "god" is usually one that resembles more the hopes of the one who envisions it than any true reality. Can one person really envision a God that is larger than the person — beyond their comprehension? God has been calling his people back to him for millennia and has described himself through his scriptures and in the person of Jesus Christ. Only God can define himself; only God can truly describe something as large and as great as a being worthy of being called "God."

I invite you through this Holy Week and beyond to reach for the scriptures to know God. Look at when his people are performing well — read Acts, for example, for some snapshots of that. How does this suggest we should live and act as a community? I think you'll find it's a deep community meeting weekly (even daily) for worship and doing the work of God. His calling to the church is not different in this day. If we don't pay attention, we may one day, also, be surprised at outcomes in our lives. If we don't pay attention, we risk defining a "god" that is not truly God at all. If we believe in that "god," we don't believe in God at all; we fall into idolatry.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy", written on a light-colored background.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education committee is hard at work planning for activities to get our youth programs back on track. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, staff from Glacier Camp was in worship to talk to the young people about the opportunities available for them at camp.



On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Logos youth, in conjunction with the CE committee, hosted their annual Palm Sunday Brunch, with a few changes. A free will offering was taken, proceeds of which will be used to put carpeting in the hallways of the Education Building.

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the CE committee hosted a Spring Festival for the young people of the church. This included story time, crafts, cookie decorating and an Easter Egg Hunt.

We are in the process of working with Pondera Valley Lutheran Church to host Vacation Bible School at our church this summer. VBS will be staffed by counselors from Flathead Lutheran



Bible Camp. The dates for that will be June 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> for children preschool age through beginning 6<sup>th</sup> grade and will run from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Attendees will need to

bring a sack lunch. Preschool will meet Tuesday-Thursday from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM and will not need to bring a lunch. More information will be coming at later date.

The Christian Education Committee is also discussing ways to continue our youth ministry through the summer months. In addition, we are beginning to plan for our fall programs. If you have any suggestions for improving either Church School or Logos, please feel free to contact Carol Day Rider at 279-3759. If you have any ideas of ways that we can minister to our young families, feel free to let us know. We want to be able to put forth the best program possible.



## GLORIOSO RINGERS

The Glorioso Ringers met a few times in September and since have been shut down due to COVID. On March 15<sup>th</sup> the Pres Bells (Presbyterian members of Glorioso Ringers) got together and plan to play on Easter Sunday. We hope COVID will not spoil our plans. We hope to see you soon!

## BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons has been having regular meetings to address some of the needs of our church family. It is important to us that we maintain contact with as many of our friends as we can. At Christmas we provided gift bags to residents at PMC Extended Care, Horizon Lodge, and Beehive Homes and delivered plates of cookies to other members. We are working on other projects to help maintain that contact. We want to assure our members that First Presbyterian Church is, indeed, open for business. Social distancing guidelines are in place and masks are being worn during worship. We are hoping soon that we can begin having Coffee Hour again. So, come on in and enjoy worship with your church family. There is plenty of room and we would love to have you return. We miss seeing you all.

## DEACON NEWS

Some of the Deacons and Presbyterian Women got together to make Easter cards for our shut-ins to let them know they are being thought about during Easter time. Thanks go to Karla Wittmier and Jeanne Stordahl for sharing their card making talents and making it an enjoyable time for all of us.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



After a brief hiatus to enable our members to take care of family matters, to host the Lenten Luncheons and provide lunches for the attendees, Presbyterian Women will meet on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Hostesses are Carol Day Rider and Carol Miller. Intermountain Children's Home collection cans are available in the narthex of the church and can be picked following worship. Hope to see you all there.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for May's newsletter is Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any articles or information you would like to submit, please send them either by email to [conpres@3rivers.net](mailto:conpres@3rivers.net) or mail to:

First Presbyterian Church  
123 4th Ave SW  
Conrad, MT 59425





# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CONRAD

## Session Highlights - March 2021

1. Pastor Smothers reported we will no longer offer the online worship after March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We also have discontinued including the slides in worship. The number of viewers on the YouTube viewer sites were **11** on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, **8** on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, **11** on Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, **8** on Ash Wednesday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, **5** on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> and **7** on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. He reminded us these numbers are approximate.
2. Our Lenten Lunch program has been held on Thursdays at Noon and have been fairly well attended and the bag lunch provided after the service has been well received. Pastor Smothers gave the first two meditations and the next three will be given by other members of our church.
3. The Wednesday Evening Prayer group continues to meet on Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall and are working through a program on prayer practices based on the book *Kneeling with Giants*. If you are interested in joining please contact Pastor Andy.
4. Pastor Smothers will take vacation time April 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### The Church Finances:

#### February 2021:

<b>Operating Income:</b>	<b>\$ 10,057</b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 24,903</b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ -14,846</b>
<b>Year-to-Date Balance:</b>	<b>\$ -1,383</b>

### The Finance Committee reports:

1. The Committee reported that the PPP Loan that was gotten in 2020 has been forgiven and we have received the proceeds from the PPP2 Loan for 2021.
2. The Committee is pleased to report that the Session and Pastor Smothers have agreed to extend his contract for another year.

### The Property Committee reports:

1. The Committee reminds everyone there are work orders in the office to fill out with repair or project requests.

### The Christian Education Committee reports:

1. The Logos Youth Group will host their annual Palm Sunday Brunch on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. Breakfast Sandwiches “To Go” may be picked up in the Fellowship Hall. A free will offering will be taken with the proceeds going to new carpet in the Christian Education Building.
2. The Christian Ed Committee are planning to host a Spring Festival for grades pre-school thru 6<sup>th</sup> on Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### The Worship Committee reports:

1. Communion will be served Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, Maundy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, and Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.
2. March 28<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday.
3. April 1<sup>st</sup> – Maundy Thursday with communion.
4. April 4<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday with communion.

### The Pastor Nominating Committee reports:

1. They continue to meet on a regular basis and have received several Pastor Information Forms that they have been reading and also viewing online sermons.

**The next Session meeting will be Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 PM.**



# KID'S CORNER



## Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

# RESURRECTION

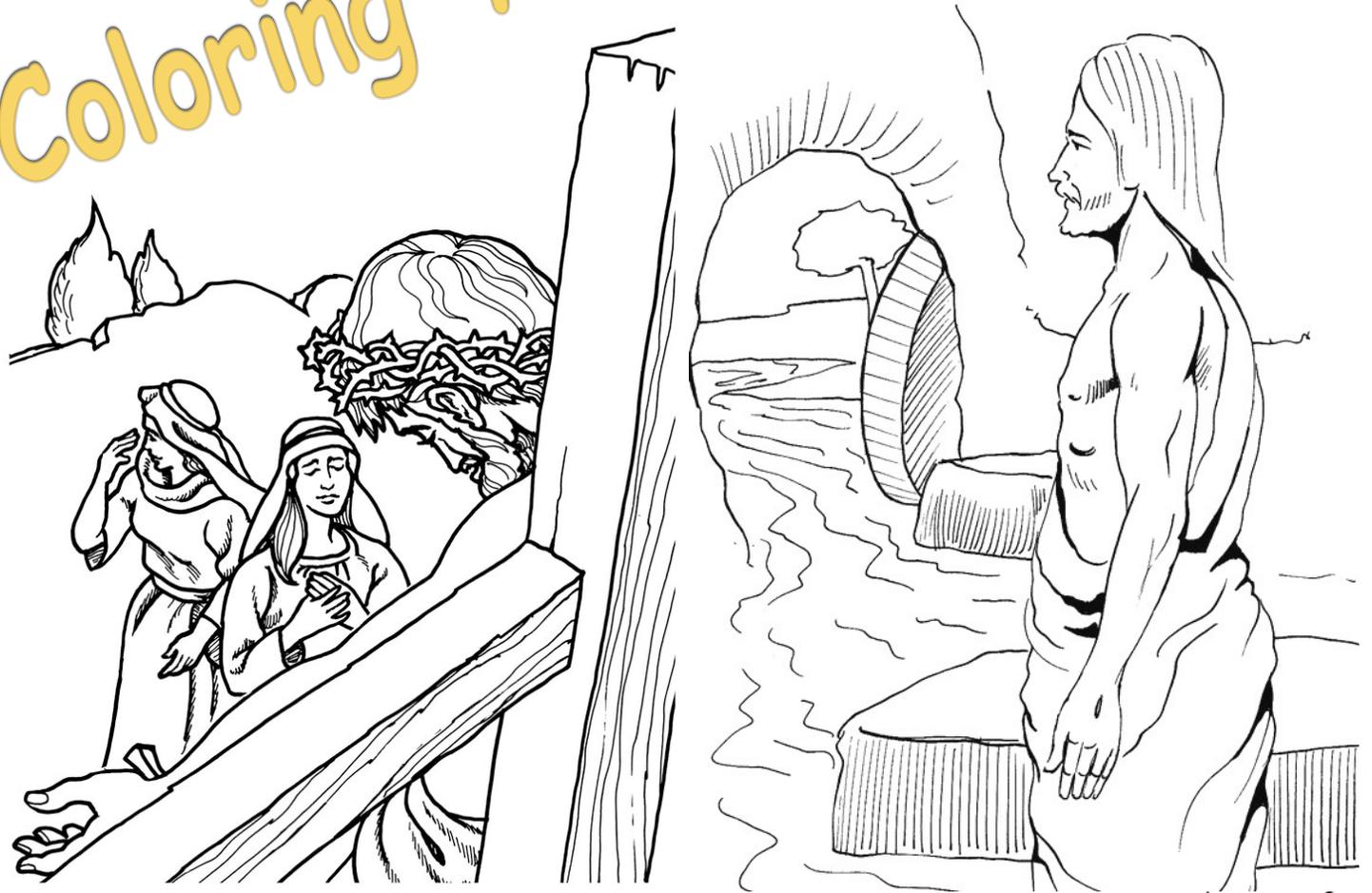
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PILATE  
PRIEST  
MARY  
GARDEN  
THOMAS  
GUARDS

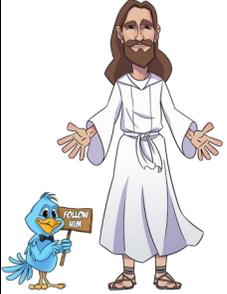
MESSIAH  
NICODEMUS  
ROMAN  
FIRST FRUITS  
HEAVEN  
JERUSALEM

GALILEE  
TOMB  
UNLEAVENED BREAD  
DISCIPLES  
YESHUA  
APPOINTED TIME

# Coloring Time



# April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service Communion	<i>2</i> 8:00 PM Good Friday Tenebrae Service	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> Worship 11:00 AM Easter—Communion 	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 10:30 AM PW Meeting 	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<b>Pastor Andy on vacation from the 5<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup></b>						
<i>11</i> Worship 11:00 AM 2nd Sunday of Easter	<i>12</i> 11:30 AM Worship Committee  2:00 PM Deacons' Meeting	<i>13</i> 9:30 AM Finance Meeting  1:00 PM PNC Meeting	<i>14</i> 6:30 PM Evening Prayer 	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> Worship 11:00 AM 3rd Sunday of Easter Communion 	<i>19</i> 7:00 PM Session	<i>20</i> 	<i>21</i> 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> Worship 11:00 AM 4th Sunday of Easter	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 1:00 PM PNC Meeting	<i>28</i> 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**123 Fourth Avenue SW**  
**Conrad, MT 59425-2302**  
**[www.conradfirstpres.org](http://www.conradfirstpres.org)**  
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*April Birthdays*

- 3 Martha Orcutt
- 4 **EASTER**
- 6 Karla Wittmier
- 7 Joanie Brown
- 10 Jennifer Baringer (Dixon)
- 16 Jim Meier
- 17 Don Perry



- 20 Todd Mellinger
- 21 Patti Mellinger  
Dana Ahmed
- 23 Helen Elliott
- 26 Claudia Martin  
Ernestine Olson
- 28 Claire Bucklin
- 30 Brittney Rauscher

*April Anniversaries*

- 4 Bernard & Patty Ries
- 15 Jerry & Velda Cowie
- 17 Allen & Delores Wittmier



***Was your birthday or anniversary not on the church list? Please contact the office, so your information can be inserted in future Newsletters!***