

Oak Leaves

Vol. LXV, Number 8

April 2023



Dear Congregation...

by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

With the arrival of April, we enter a season of beauty and renewal. Even as I write this note, and the weather outside is cold and rainy, I can see the clear evidence of bushes and plants beginning to bloom. Although many of my senses tell me that winter still has its cold dark grip on us, the truth is, spring is in motion. There is no holding it back. Winter has its instructions. Warmer, brighter days are inevitably on the way!

It shouldn't surprise us that this is also the time for our annual walk through Holy Week and Easter. This season culminates in the glorious news of the empty tomb. It tells us that the winter of life has been conquered, and the warmth and renewal of Christ's living spirit is spreading out across the globe. Yet in many ways, our senses tell us otherwise. The darkness of violence, of conflict, of disease and of death are still with us. It seems that that winter still has its cold dark grip on us. But the signs are there! A flower is bursting from the ground. Christ is alive! There is no holding it back! As CS Lewis wrote in the book *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* about the Christ figure, Aslan the lion:

At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more, When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death, And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again.



I want to encourage you to attend the services of Holy Week and Easter. It is a great time to invite friends and family to join you. It is a time to claim the arrival of Spring, both the spring of nature, and the Spring of the Spiritual world.

April is also a time to sense the spring that God is planning for this church, as we continue our interim transition time. On Friday, April 14, at 6:30 PM, we will hold a special Legacy Celebration dinner in Wilson Hall. At this dinner, we will celebrate the history timeline board, lift up

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important moments in the life of the church, hear about what others outside the church know and think of this church, and begin to envision the timeline ahead of us. This is an important moment for this congregation, and I encourage you to make every effort to attend.

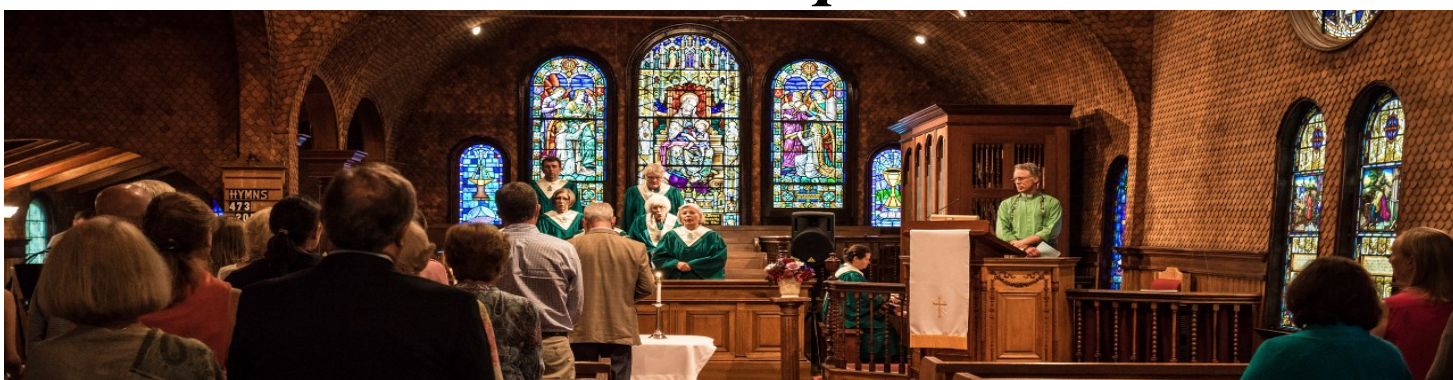
Yes, Spring has sprung. And even though I can hear the cold wind blow outside, I know in my heart that it is on its way. So it is with our faith, and so it is with our church!

In God's Love,

Paul J Kirbas

Interim Pastor

Worship



Holy Week Worship Plans

Sunday, April 2 9:45 AM Palm Sunday Worship

Join us as we re-enact the waving of the palm branches as Jesus entered the gate of Jerusalem. When Jesus instructed his disciples to acquire a donkey for the ride, what reason did he give for its request from the owner? What would we do if we heard it in our own lives?

Thursday, April 6 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Worship

In this service, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper on the night in which Jesus instituted it. Following the sacrament, we will participate in a solemn Tenebrae service as we follow Jesus out into the garden and beyond.

Friday, April 7: Noon until 3:00 PM Good Friday Meditations

To allow individual prayer on Good Friday, our sanctuary will be open for one hour beginning at noon. Meditative music will be offered, and the candles will be lit. You are invited to come in any time during those hours, and stay as long or short as you wish, as you spend time in meditation and prayer.

Sunday, April 9 9:45 AM Easter Sunday

Join us for this festive celebration as we joyfully proclaim the news, Jesus Christ is Risen Today!

Worshipping Together in April

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023 @ 9:45 AM (Communion)

Sermon: "Just Because...." by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Psalm 118:19-29; Matthew 21:1-11**

On this day of palm-waving celebration, we learn an important lesson through the request of a donkey.

Maundy Thursday Service, April 6, 2022 @ 7:30 PM

Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Good Friday, April 7, 2022 @ 12:00 - 3:00 PM

Sanctuary will be open for personal prayer

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023 @ 9:45 AM

Sermon: "Afraid of...." by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Jeremiah 31:1-6; Mark 16:1-8**

Out of all of the books of the New Testament, the Gospel of Mark has the most intriguing ending. But it only shows up in its original language. What is the ending all about, and what invitation does it offer to us?

Second Sunday of Easter, April 16, 2023 @ 9:45 AM

Sermon: "The Twin Sister" by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Psalm 111; John 20:24-29**

Doubting Thomas will be forever known for his weakness, but is that fair? What experience did his doubts give him that no other disciple seemed to have?

Third Sunday of Easter, April 23, 2023 @ 9:45 AM

Sermon: "The Right Side" by Rev. Dr. Paul J. Kirbas

Scripture: **Isaiah 51:1-6; John 21:1-8**

When Jesus gave his disciples some fishing tips, it changed everything. What does this post-resurrection story teach us about being disciples, then and now?

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 30, 2023 @ 9:45 AM

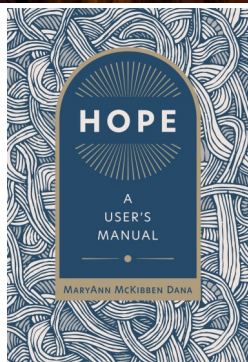
Sermon: "The Good Shepherd" by Rev. Sue Smith

Scripture: **Psalm 23; John 10:1-10**

Psalm 23 provides great comfort in times of sorrow. Is that all?

For updates & more services, visit rumsonpresbyterian.org/upcoming-services

Adult Nurture



Join us throughout the season of Lent as we discuss the book *Hope: A User's Manual* by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. What IS hope? How do we experience it? What difference does it make in how we live our lives? We meet Wednesday evenings in the library, 7:30-8:30. If you'd like to join the conversation, just show up! We'll meet every Wednesday until April 5.

Church School

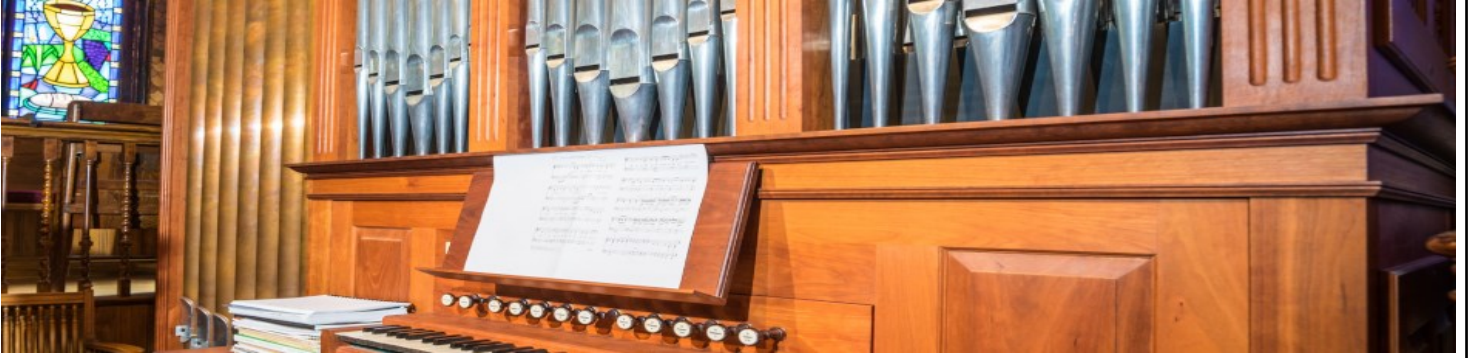


It seems NJ skipped right over Winter and went directly to Spring! Though I can't help but feel cheated out of a beautiful snow, nothing makes me happier than to see daffodils proudly welcoming the warmer weather. Church school will be headed outside, weather permitting, we hope to do a garbage sweep of the grounds or Victory Park as well as a nature walk. Feel free to contact me with any issues or requests at churchschool@rumsonpresbyterian.org or **(732) 768-9913**.

Thank You,
Sandi Van Cleve, Director of Christian Education

As always, looking for "volunteers" for the Nursery. Please reach out to me at **(732) 768-9913** or churchschool@rumsonpresbyterian.org if you know someone who may be interested. The pay is \$25 per session or credit for volunteer hours.

Music Program



Happy April, everyone.

As always, we welcome new members to our choir. It's a joyful experience with minimal time commitment where we create music together in community, and we'd love to have you join in!

Also, if you are someone with musical gifts, please reach out. We'd love to include more members in our worship services, at whatever commitment level you are comfortable with.

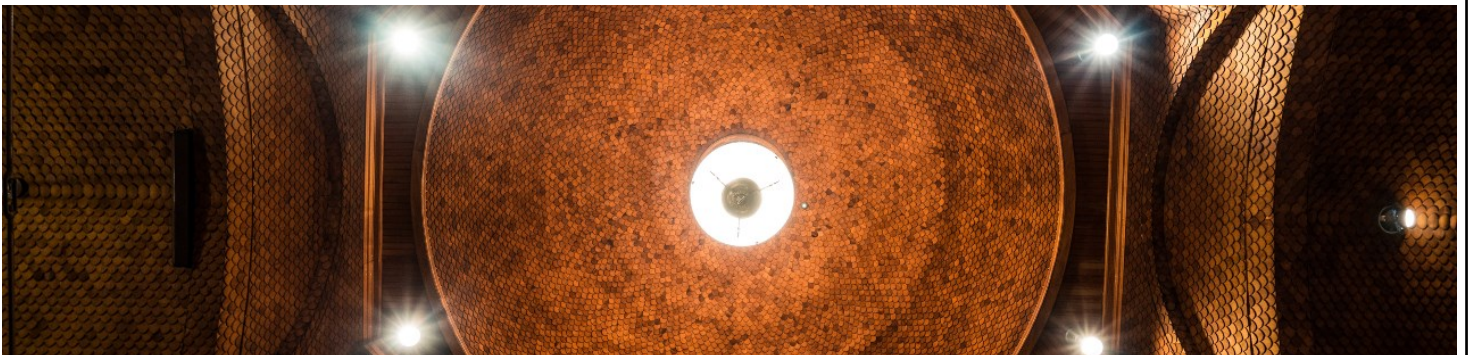
A few dates to keep in mind for April:

- Maundy Thursday, April 6th, evening service at 7:30 pm
- Good Friday, April 7th (no worship service, but the sanctuary will be open for meditation and prayer)
- Easter Sunday, April 9th, worship service at 9:45 am

Blessings,

Andreea Fegan, Director of Music

Mission News



As daffodils bloom in the door yard, we welcome the promise of Spring and close our first quarter of Mission Commission activities. Mission is working this year to augment our robust financial support strategies with donation and volunteer opportunities to encourage broader congregation engagement in this important dimension of our church. We continue with two donation campaigns to collect goods for outstanding local organizations, The Furni-

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ture Bank (FB) of the Holy Lutheran Church of Manasquan and the Blessing Bag Brigade (BBB). Bins located in the narthex will stay in place through Easter season to collect items for both organizations. Bigger donations can be stored downstairs.

For Furniture Bank, targeted items include smaller-sized sofas and love seats, chairs, end tables, coffee tables, lamps, beds, dressers or chests, night stands, kitchen tables and chairs (favorites are small drop leaf tables with 2 chairs), small dining room tables (best are 60" or less and <40" wide without the leaves; with 4-8 chairs), small appliances like coffee pots, toasters, toaster ovens, countertop microwaves, pots, pans, kitchen gadgets like spatulas and cooking spoons, dish sets (favorite is Corelle), flatware, queen/double/single bed linens, and bathroom towels. BBB is looking for donations of bottled water, individually packaged snacks like granola bars, socks, deodorant, disposable razors, toothbrushes, and travel-size toiletries such as toothpaste, soap/body wash, lotion, shampoo, and other personal hygiene items.

Early in the year, we donated to Doctors without Borders and Presbyterian Disaster Relief Funds targeting Ukraine, Syria and Turkey given ongoing conflicts and earthquake disasters in those regions. More locally, we continued our commitments to Covenant House - helping young people facing homelessness; Fulfill NJ - which provides 972,000 meals each month in Monmouth and Ocean Counties; Interfaith Neighbors - which offers an array of services for the most vulnerable and works actively to improve the quality of life for individuals families and communities with programs including Meals on Wheels, affordable housing, an early childhood learning Center, rental and mortgage assistance, and even an urban farm!

In the category of social justice, we again supported the Bard Prison Initiative which now enrolls over 300 students across seven interconnected prisons in NY state to offer associate and bachelor degree for persons in prison. Watch the documentary film by Lynn Novick 'College Behind Bars' for more insights into the power of education and this program.

We donated to two new organizations: The Lifeguard Ecumenical Foundation founded in 2009 by a group of neighbors in Fair Haven to raise awareness of those around us in need of assistance. (This mission member ran into the Atlantic Ocean on New Year Day in 2022 for this organization!) And we learned about and donated to the Support our Troops Project managed by the Nativity Church also in Fair Haven which send care packages to those deployed overseas.

Finally, with summer coming soon, we continued to support Camp Johnsonburg, established to provide experiential Christian education in support of the Presbyterian Church in NJ, offering several weeks of camping and leadership training for youth.

Mission Commission meets the 4th Monday of every month at 7:30 on the church zoom number. All are welcome!

Anita Waters. Mission Chair

Other Church News



The Historical Timeline Project And Legacy Celebration Dinner Friday, April 14, 2023, 6:30 PM

As we enter the second phase of the Interim Period, it is time to focus on the history and legacy of Rumson Presbyterian Church. One way we will be doing that is through the Historical Timeline Project. The historical timeline project is a large timeline spread across the western window wall of Wilson Hall. This timeline is divided into decades. In each decade section, we will place pictures, articles, bulletins, and historical notes that come from that decade. We invite all of you to do the same. Perhaps you have a picture of your grown child, who was in the children's choir back in the decade of the 90's. Perhaps you have a picture of a baptism or a wedding. We will have safe ways for you to attach these items to the timeline, so you can retrieve them in safe condition when we are finished with the timeline.

The timeline is in place and ready for your participation. From now until a celebration dinner event planned for Friday, April 14, you are invited and encouraged to view the timeline and to add to it. Together, let's build a visible string to the foundational times of our church, so that we can have the necessary foundation in place as we begin building the new era of Rumson Presbyterian Church.

You should have received an email with a link for you to sign up for the April 14 dinner. If you didn't receive the email, give the office a call @ 732-842-0429. Please join us in this important step of our transition to a new pastor here at Rumson Presbyterian Church.



Rumson Presbyterian Church is excited to partner with the Presbyterian Foundation and Vanco Payment Solutions to bring you our GivePlus Online Giving page (<https://>

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rumsonpresbyterian.org/giving/).

We are also listed in the GivePlus Mobile App, which can be downloaded to your smartphone, making Online Giving even easier. This YouTube video explains how to get and use the App. In addition, here are links to two more documents about the service and the App: "Vanco GivePlus Church FAQs for Donors" and "Vanco GivePlus Church How it Works".

Note: 2% of your GivePlus donation will be retained as an administrative fee by the Presbyterian Foundation.

Easter Lilies



Below is a form for those who wish to provide Easter Lilies as part of our Easter Sunday celebration. Please fill out the form and return it to the Church Office. Also, please send a check payable to the "Rumson Presbyterian Church". Those wishing to have a plant placed in our worship services and then to have it shared with someone who is homebound or hospitalized, should place a check in the appropriate box.

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Please order the following Easter Lily plant(s) to be used as part of the decorations for the Easter Sunday service:

_____ Plant(s) (@ \$12.00 each) \$ _____

Donor(s): _____ Phone: _____

☐ Presented in memory of _____

☐ Please share my plant with someone homebound or hospitalized.

Presbyterian Church News



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

March 2 - April 17, 2022

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by our church - One Great Hour of Sharing, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

To learn more, pick up a brochure from the literature shelf in the narthex (just outside the sanctuary) or visit <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/give>

To give, there is an envelope in your Stewardship booklet (March 13th), you can pick up an envelope from the literature shelf in the narthex, or you can visit <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/oghs/>

Community News



Early Risers



If you want to stop drinking call: 1-908-687-8566

or (toll free from NJ area codes): 1-800-245-1377

24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

For a list of other local A.A. meetings, visit www.nnjaa.org/#

For information about A.A. visit www.nnjaa.org

Meetings: Fri. from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM at Rumson Presbyterian Church

Waterspirit Event Calendar for April



Meditation for Earth Every Tues. from 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM

Please join Waterspirit for a "Meditation for Earth." We read a short blessing, followed by an excerpt from Hal Borland's '12 moons of the Year'. Then we lead a simple meditation followed with silence, for a flourishing Earth. The meditation and silence is approximately 30 minutes. There are two ways to meditate with us: (1) In-person in the Sanctuary at Rumson Presbyterian Church (2) Online on our YouTube channel. No matter where you are in the world, you can join us as we meditate for our Earth!

WILD in the Garden State Film Screening Wed., Apr. 5 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Join Waterspirit for a special screening of the film "WILD in the Garden State" by Sarah Galloway. "Wild in the Garden State" is the story of connecting to the natural world in suburban New Jersey.

Eco-Art Workshop with Lisa Bagwell Wed., Apr. 12 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Join Waterspirit and self described "Trash Assemblage" Artist, Lisa Bagwell. Lisa's original works of art are created using things people would ordinarily throw away.

Upcycled Sewing Skill-Share Wed., Apr. 19 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Waterspirit is hosting a free sewing program focused on Upcycling and Skill-Sharing. Help Waterspirit turn rescued designer fabric swatches into usable goods!

Lament With Earth: Via Transformativa with the Element of Water Thu., Apr. 20, 7:30 - 8:30 PM (Virtual)

Waterspirit is co-sponsoring this online event. We invite you to join us for an evening to explore our ecological grief in community, as we delve into themes of transformation in our April Lament with Earth offering.

Earth Day Beach Clean Up Sat., Apr. 22 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us (Sandy Hook Lot D, Hartshorne Drive, Highlands, NJ, 07732) as we work together to protect our precious waters and wildlife. Volunteers are needed to help us remove plastic debris, bottles, bags, cans and so much more along the beaches of Sandy Hook.

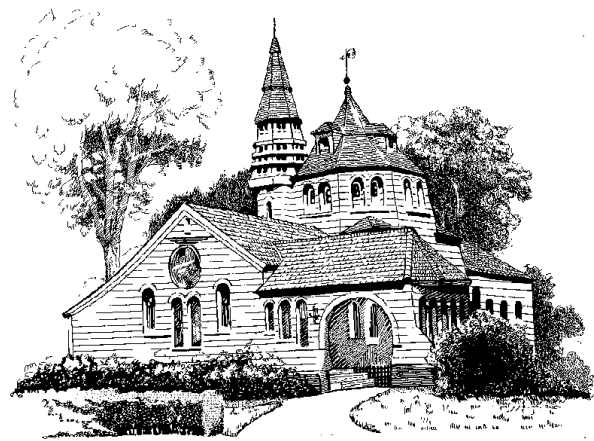
Aquatic Animals of Monmouth County Wed., Apr. 26 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Join Waterspirit as we learn about the great variety of wildlife that live in the waters of Monmouth County, NJ.

Walk for Water Sat., Apr. 29 from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Help us raise awareness at the Walk for Water fundraiser! Join us as we walk 3.5 miles to raise awareness about the importance of access to the sacred, life-giving element of water.

All are welcome. Please visit their website (waterspirit.org)



First Presbyterian Church of Rumson NJ
P.O. Box 399
East River Road at Park Avenue
Rumson, NJ 07760

Nonprofit Organization

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED

~Please check our website at www.rumsonpresbyterian.org for calendar updates~

APRIL 2023

Apr 2	Sun	Palm Sunday	9:45 AM
Apr 4	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Apr 5	Wed	Adult Nurture Book Group	7:30 PM
Apr 6	Sun	Maundy Thursday	7:30 PM
Apr 7	Sun	Good Friday	12:00 PM
Apr 9	Sun	Easter Sunday	9:45 AM
Apr 10	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00 AM
Apr 11	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Apr 14	Fri	Legacy Celebration Dinner	6:30 PM
Apr 18	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
Apr 18	Tue	Session	7:00 PM
Apr 22	Sat	Earth Day	
Apr 24	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00 AM
Apr 24	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30 PM
Apr 25	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM

MAY 2023

May 2	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
May 8	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00 AM
May 9	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
May 14	Sun	Mother's Day	
May 16	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
May 16	Tue	Session	7:00 PM
May 18	Thu	Ascension Day	
May 22	Mon	Rumson Seniors	11:00 AM
May 22	Mon	Mission Commission	7:30 PM
May 23	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM
May 28	Sun	Pentecost Sunday	9:45 AM
May 29	Mon	Memorial Day	
May 30	Tue	Meditation for Earth*	12:15 PM

**Waterspirit sponsored event. All are welcome.*

Please visit the Waterspirit website (waterspirit.org) for more information.



www.rumsonpresbyterian.org