

FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF UPLAND



EASTER PEOPLE

We Christians are an Easter People. We walk the roads with Jesus -- roads filled with anger, hatred, conflict, and needy, hurting peoples. We walk with him to the cross, to his unjust execution, his death. And in the depth of our despair, we walk with the women to the tomb, to discover an empty tomb, an angel and a Risen Lord! We learn that our God has overcome death and offers us new life, now and forever.

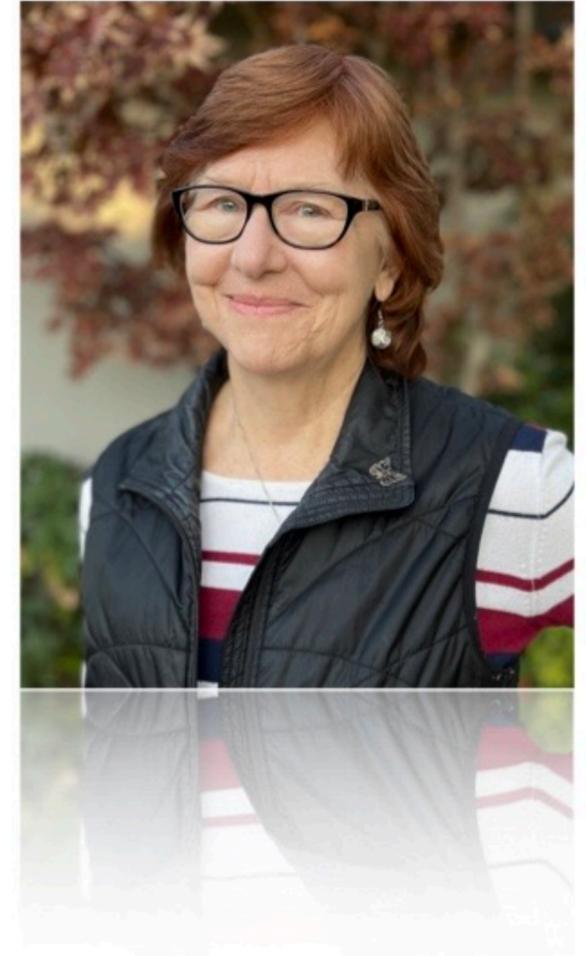
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EASTER PEOPLE PASTOR TINA BLAIR

We Easter people go out into the world to bring hope. We witness to the fact that even in the darkest times our loving God goes with us. From God's Son sacrifice on the cross, from the most terrible of times, comes resurrection and new life. God is alive! New life will come!

We Easter people also go out into the world to serve. In the same way that God's Son served us, even to the point of dying for us, we too join in Christ's work in this world. We continue his work of feeding and healing, of teaching and empowering, of reconciliation and peace-making. We Easter people go into the world, knowing that our Lord Jesus walks with us and empowers us with his Spirit when we do his work.

We begin April with the solemn walk to the cross. But soon we will meet our Risen Lord and rejoice at God's amazing gift. Soon we will be filled with hope and joy. Soon we will celebrate that we are Christ's people, the Easter people. Alleluia!



Gospel Readings for Holy Week

March 29 Palm/Passion Sunday

Matthew 21:1–11
Matthew 27:11–54

March 30 Monday of Holy Week

John 12:1–11

March 31 Tuesday of Holy Week

John 12:20–36

April 1 Wednesday of Holy Week

John 13:21–32

April 2 Maundy Thursday

John 13:1–17, 31b–35 *or* Luke 22:7–23

April 3 Good Friday

John 18:1–19:42

April 5 Resurrection of the Lord

John 20:1–18 *or* (Easter Sunday)
Matthew 28:1–10

ELEVATE MATT SHOOL

Why Passion Week Matters for Your Family

As we approach the most significant week in the Christian calendar, it's easy for the busyness of life—school runs, work deadlines, and even "Easter prep"—to drown out the story we're actually celebrating. **Passion Week**, the journey from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection, isn't just a historical timeline; it's the heartbeat of our faith.

For families, this week offers a unique chance to move beyond the chocolate eggs and the Sunday best to experience the depth of God's love together. Here is why leaning into Passion Week matters for your home.

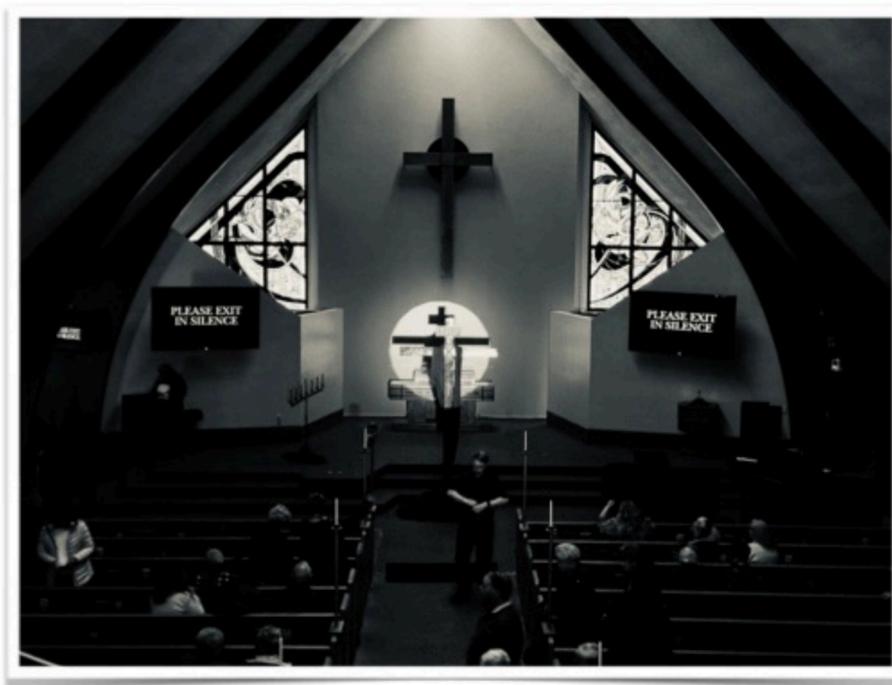


It Anchors Our Identity

In a world that often tells our kids they are defined by their performance or their "likes," Passion Week tells a different story. By walking through the events of the **Last Supper and the Crucifixion**, we remind our families that our value was settled on the cross. It's a week that grounds us in the truth that we are deeply seen and extravagantly loved.

It Teaches the "Both/And" of Faith

One of the most beautiful (and difficult) things about Passion Week is the emotional range. We experience the high of the **Triumphal Entry**, the intimacy of the **Upper Room**, the darkness of **Good Friday**, and the explosion of joy on **Easter Morning**.



Teaching our children to sit in the "sad" of Friday makes the "glad" of Sunday so much sweeter. It shows them that God is present in our suffering just as much as He is in our celebration.

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It Creates Rhythms of Grace

Life moves fast, but Passion Week invites us to slow down. Whether you're reading a chapter of the **Gospels** each night or using a resource like the NLT Study Bible for Teens to spark deeper conversation, these moments create "mile-markers" in a child's life. They begin to associate this time of year not just with a holiday, but with a family tradition of seeking Jesus.

Ways to Celebrate and Participate this Week at First Pres

- **Maundy Thursday Seder** at 6pm
- **Good Friday Tenebrae service** a dark and dramatic reading of the crucifixion at 7PM
- **Easter Sunday celebration** at 10AM

Passion Week is more than a lead-up to a Sunday service—it's the week that changed everything. Let's make sure our families don't miss the wonder of it.



First Presbyterian Church of Upland Financial Summary				
SUMMARY	Income/Expense February 2026		Year to Date	
Opening Checkbook Bal.	\$ 18,580.27		\$ 17,218.61	
Added Voided Checks	\$ -		\$ -	
Income for Budget Accts.	\$ 32,546.12		\$ 66,441.49	
Transfer To/From Reserves (1)	\$ -		\$ -	
Expenses for Budget Accts.	\$ (36,108.01)		\$ (68,641.72)	
Income for Non-Budget Accts.	\$ 2,600.00		\$ 2,600.00	
Disbursements for Non-Budget Accts.	\$ -		\$ -	
Partial Payment to Uncertainties Acct.				
Checkbook Balance as of 2/28/2026	\$ 17,618.38		\$ 17,618.38	
Note: (1) To Achieve \$6k Checkbook balance				
	Collected / Expended Feb 2026	Monthly Budgeted	Collected / Expended Year to Date	Amount Budgeted to Date
Pledge Income & Loose Offerings	\$ 21,072.78	\$ 31,255.00	\$ 49,235.81	\$ 62,510.00
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 36,108.01	\$ 46,544.00	\$ 68,641.72	\$ 93,088.00

FROM TRUSTEES GARY CUSTER

GIVING

Greetings from the Board of Trustees. It may not surprise you that our article is on giving. But did you realize that churches (that's us!) generally give most in December (14.3%), March (8.3%) and yes, April comes 3rd at (8.2%)

Growing in Christ and making Him known

How great to be a part of a congregation wherein the members are committed, ever-growing, deeply-connected, and ever-sharing in their walk with Christ? Thank You! For being a part of FPCU!



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP TEAM

The Sacred Journey of Holy Week

Holy Week is the most important and meaningful week of the Christian year. During these sacred days, we walk with Jesus from His triumphant entry into Jerusalem to His resurrection on Easter morning. Each service—Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday—reveals a vital part of God’s saving work for us. By participating in worship during Holy Week, we are drawn more deeply into the story of our salvation and renewed in faith, hope, and love.

Palm Sunday – Welcoming

Our King

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem and was greeted by crowds waving palm branches and crying, “Hosanna!” The people welcomed Him as a king, yet He came in humility, riding on a donkey. Palm Sunday reminds us to welcome Christ not only with our words, but with faithful and obedient hearts.

Maundy Thursday – Love, Service, and the Lord’s Supper

On Maundy Thursday we remember the night Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples. At this meal He instituted the Holy Communion, giving us His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus also washed His disciples’ feet, showing that true greatness is found in humble service. His commandment —“Love one another as I have loved you”—continues to guide the life of the Church.

Good Friday – The Day of the Cross

Good Friday is a solemn day as we remember the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. Though it is a day marked by sorrow and reflection, it is called “Good” because through His sacrifice, Jesus took upon Himself the punishment for our sins. By His death, we are reconciled to God and given the promise of forgiveness and eternal life.

Easter Sunday – Christ Is Risen!

The sadness of Good Friday gives way to the joy of Easter morning. On Easter Sunday we celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead, defeating sin, death, and the power of the grave.

Enthusiastically on Easter morning comes the believers’ cry: “Christ is risen!” “He is risen indeed!” It is the unabashed joyful announcement for ALL to hear that eternal love, forgiveness, and eternal life are ours through the sacrifice and love of Jesus Christ. Christians announce that “He is risen,” and that “All is well!” For all who trust in our Lord will share in his glorious victory over death. We will share in his promise of life everlasting.

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!

EVENTS GATHER TEAM

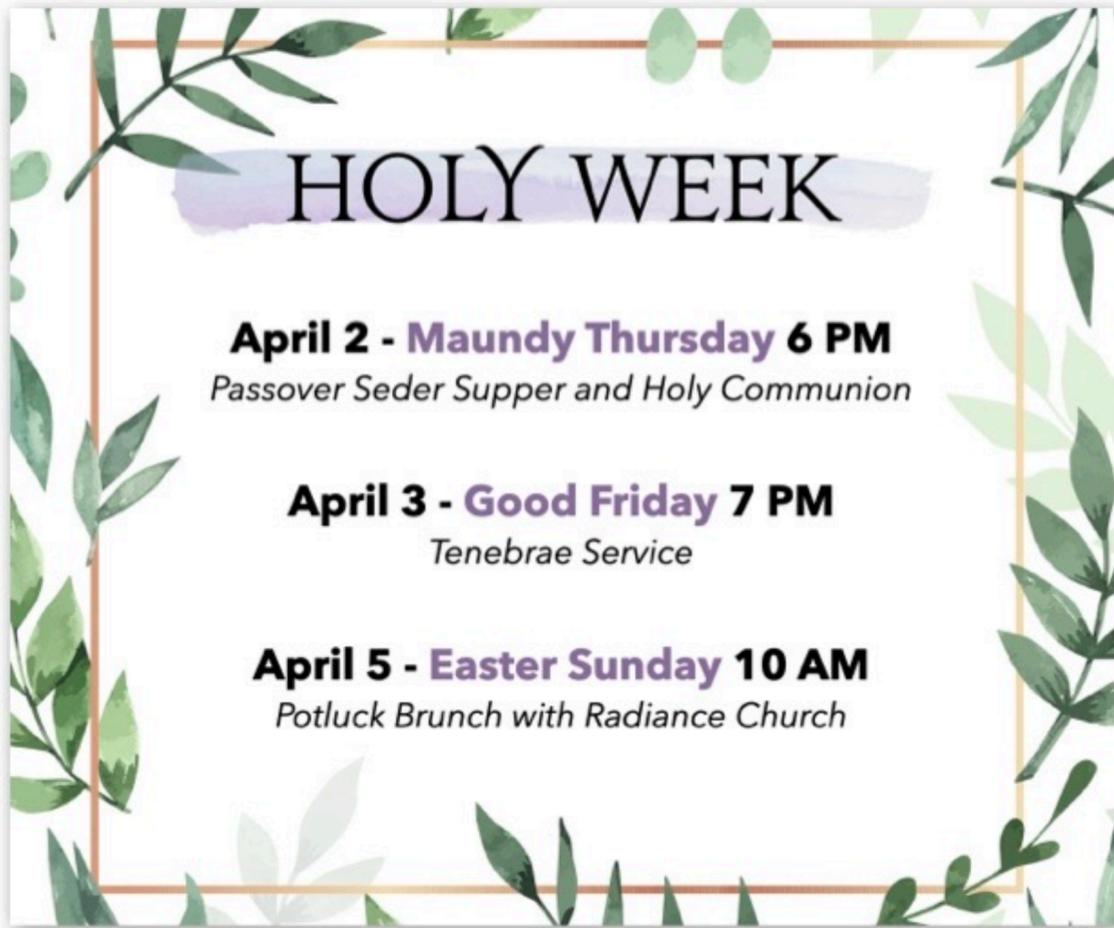
Gather hosted a Valentine's Day potluck on February 15th. We ate delicious treats, exchanged silly valentines and listened to a live band!



EVENTS GATHER TEAM

On March 15th we hosted our annual St. Patrick's Day Brunch! We dined on traditional Irish Stew and Corned Beef and Cabbage. Salads and desserts were provided by the congregation. What a pleasure it to be entertained by the Upland High School Pipe Band!





HOLY WEEK

April 2 - Maundy Thursday 6 PM
Passover Seder Supper and Holy Communion

April 3 - Good Friday 7 PM
Tenebrae Service

April 5 - Easter Sunday 10 AM
Potluck Brunch with Radiance Church



Egg Hunt

April 5
Right after service

FREE

HOMework CLUB & TUTORING

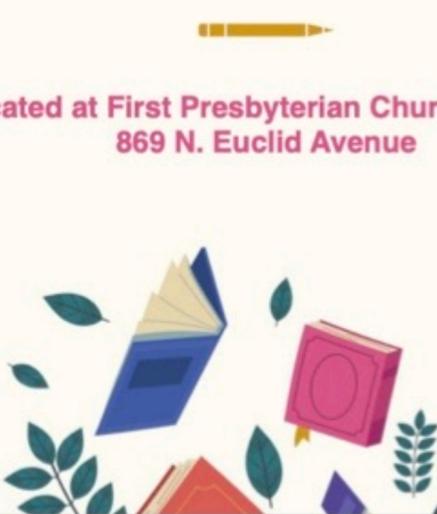
Wednesday nights from 4 - 5 PM

Purpose: Adults help elementary through high school students one-on-one with their homework.

Students can also sign up to stay for dinner from 5 - 5:30 PM

Sign up on Wednesdays at 3:45 PM at FPCU office
(909) 982 - 8811 or contact Kim Righetti **(909) 285 - 6801**
to fill out a permission slip or for more details.

Located at First Presbyterian Church Upland
869 N. Euclid Avenue



VBS 2026

RAIN FOREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God

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Save the date for FPCU Vacation Bible School
June 22 from 5 PM - 7:30 PM

Ages:
Preschool - Entering 5th grade in the fall

More information coming in April



APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:10pm Choir	2 5pm Beginning Bells 5:30pm Deacons	3 Good Friday	4
5 10am Worship with Communion Easter Sunday	6 5:30pm Bells Personnel	7 6pm Serve 7pm Gather AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	8 4pm Homework Club 5pm Elevate 7:10pm Choir	9 12:30pm Preschool Board Mtg. 5pm Beginning Bells 6:30pm Grow	10 11am LIFT	11
12 10am Worship	13 5:30pm Bells	14 9:30am Knitters and Quilters 5pm Worship 6pm Trustees AA Groups- HH & upstairs	15 4pm Homework Club 5pm Elevate 7:10pm Choir	16 5pm Beginning Bells	17	18 11am Memorial for Bob Chaffino
19 10 am Worship	20 5:30pm Bells	21 9:30am Knitters and Quilters AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	22 4pm Homework Club 5pm Elevate 7:10pm Choir	23 5pm Beginning Bells 6:30pm Session	24	25
26 10 am Worship	27 5:30pm Bells	28 9:30am Knitters and Quilters AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	29	30		

APRIL PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1- Curcija	2- Custer	3- D'Monte	4- Davidson
5	6- Day	7- Decauwer	8- Decker	9- Diess	10- Dooley	11-Doss
12	13- Ecklund	14- Edmon	15- Emrich	16- Ferguson	17- Fogle	18- Foreman
19	20- Forney	21- Francis	22- Fredendall	23- Fuzzard	24- Geiger	25- Griffin
26	27- Grist	28- Haas	29- Hallihan	30- Halsey		

Please pray for healing and restoration for:

Jean Vanvieltdt, Felicia Foreman, Bill Howie, Lynn McClelland,
Joni Stallings, David Brinkley, Kay Hester, Iris Joiner, Marie Swenson, Bob Summers,
Terry King, Jerry Wilson

Pray for those who are homebound or in convalescent care:
John Dooley, Beth Brinkley, Dick Davidson

Please call Gael in the office if we need to update any information. Thank you. 909-982-8811.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 01 David Smith | 29 Loreto D'Monte |
| 03 Jeff Morgan | 30 Matt Shool |
| 03 Mark Polchow | |
| 06 Robert Kemngang, Jr. | |
| 07 Margaret Williams | |
| 09 David Francis | |
| 12 Musa Mba | |
| 23 Robert Chaffino | |
| 23 Sharon Chaffino | |
| 24 Julie Emrich | |
| 28 Kathy Kler | |

We would also like to extend birthday greetings to any other **April** babies not on our list. If you know of a member's birthday that needs to be added, please call Gael in the church office @ 982-8811. Thank you, and

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU!



**GROWING IN CHRIST,
MAKING HIM KNOWN**

Trustees

Gary Custer, President
Sue Frazee, Vice President
Van Romine, Treasurer
Shawn Kathol, Secretary
Paul Sindelar

Deacons

Becky Custer
Heather Decauwer
Carol Diess
Loreto D'Monte
Ebie Fogle
Lisa Murdy
Constance Phillips
Kim Righetti
Sue Sindelar
Ocha Ukwu

Staff

Tina Blair, Bridge Pastor
Matt Shool, Youth Ministries
Jannina Guzman, Office Manager
Gael Lecce, Receptionist

Misty Wren, Preschool Director
Nadina Rearte, Director's Assistant

Elders

William Anguka
Gary Custer
Frank Fogle
Sue Frazee
Diane Hallihan
Pam Polchow
Randy Righetti
Van Romine
Jim Smirl
Donna Strowger
Tony Webner

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