

# April

*Open Door 2023*

A caterpillar spends most of its time eating. When it is time to become an adult, it finds a sheltered safe spot where it transforms itself. The transformation or metamorphosis starts when the caterpillar spins a little silk pad. Some chrysalis hang upside down but others support themselves on tree branches or create a silk hammock.

The change inside the chrysalis is slow and gradual. The caterpillar's body digests itself from the inside out. The caterpillar is attacked by the same sort of juices that it used in its earlier life to digest food. The old body is broken down into imaginal cells but not all the tissues are destroyed. Some old tissues pass onto the insect's new body. One imaginal disk will become a wing and there are imaginal disks that form the legs, antennae and the other organs of the butterfly.

Eventually the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis to begin its transformed life.

Our spiritual journey is much like the growth from caterpillar to butterfly. Our process is much longer; our life is spent being completely transformed. We are called to give up old patterns of selfishness and greed. Instead, we learn to be more like Jesus. We learn to love. We learn to serve. We learn the ways of God and the values of God.

In this season of Easter, look for signs of resurrection life as you become more like Jesus in everything you say and do.

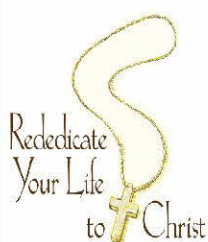
*Pastor Ray*

Thank You Cari For the Wonderful Decorations





- April 2** A Table in the Wilderness for a Hungry Crowd  
**April 9** A Table on the Beach for Us  
**April 16** The Faith of a Doubter  
**April 23** New Pathways  
**April 30** God Added to Their Number



#### NEW MEMBERS

Prospective new members will meet with Pastor Ray after worship on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will prepare people to make a confession of faith or reaffirm their faith.

#### **Kum Ba Yah aka Kum Ba Zoom**

**We meet every Wednesday on ZOOM for fellowship, study and prayer. 7:00 PM. The link to the Zoom Meeting is sent in the Wednesday eMail each week.**

#### **Kum Ba Yah topics:**

- April 5** Matthew 13:37-58  
**April 12** Matthew 15:3-39  
**April 19** Matthew 16:2-28  
**April 26** Matthew 18:2-35

#### **Adult Sunday School**

**Sundays at 9:30am on Zoom and in Person!**

- April 2** What is Grace?  
**April 9** Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt  
**April 16** Why Do I Need Grace?  
**April 23** Does Grace Mean I Can Do Anything I Want?  
**April 30** How Does God's Grace Change My Life?

## BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are grateful for the leadership of Dave Foster and Janice Johnson who organize our weekly food program with children at Roosevelt Elementary School. We are currently serving between 42 -46 students by providing weekend “backpacks” of simple, nutritious food.

We would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication. From helping pack the backpacks, to their generous donations. With out you, we couldn't make this ministry what it is today.



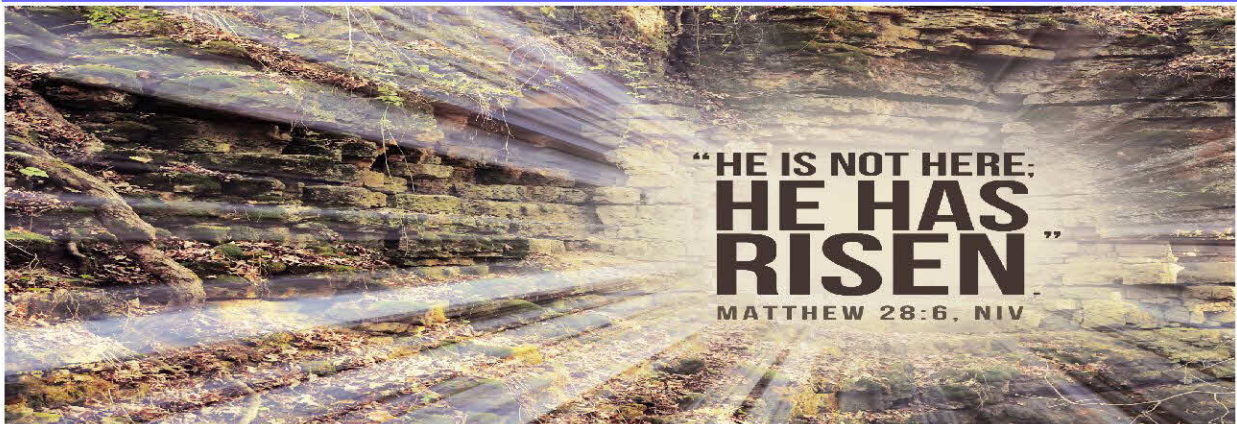
## MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee met on February 21, 2023. In Global Mission we gave a gift of \$400 to **PDA** which will go to Syria/Turkey Earthquake relief.

The Mission program is sustained in part by gifts from the Myers Sisters bequest as well as gifts from members. You can designate gifts to “Local Mission” or “Global Mission”.

The Deacon's Shoe ministry has already given out 16 pairs of shoes since the beginning of the year.

Food Pantry: January and February the food pantry handed out 62 bags of food. As of March 21st, 14 bags have been handed out for the month.





- April was the second month in an early Roman calendar, but became the fourth when the ancient Romans started using January as the first month.
- April is named for the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite.
- The name for the month of April originally came for *Aprilis* which means to open.
- Small animals that hibernate are usually coming out of their burrows in April. The birds fly back northward and settle down to have their families. The bees and butterflies begin to gather nectar from the first flowers of the season.
- In some parts of the world, it is planting time, while in other parts, it is the harvest season.
- April is Humor Month, so laugh it up!
- The birthstone for April is the diamond.
- The zodiac signs are Aries (March 21 – April 19) and Taurus (April 20-May 20).
- The birth flowers for the month of April are the sweet pea and the daisy.

### **Historical moments in the month of April**

America's first astronauts were announced by NASA on April 9, 1959.

The first Webster Dictionary was copyrighted by Noah Webster on April 14, 1828.

The Titanic sank on April 15, 1912.

The Revolutionary War in America began on April 19, 1775.

The United States Library of Congress was established April 24, 1800.

Our first President George Washington was inaugurated on April 30, 1789.

# APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 am Choir 	3 10-12 Food Pantry	4 10-12 Food Pantry	5 10-12 Food Pantry  2:30 Backpack  7:00 KumBaZoom	6 10-12 Food Pantry  	7 Office Closed  	8
9  9:15 am Breakfast 10:30 am Worship Fellowship	10 10-12 Food Pantry	11 10-12 Food Pantry	12 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 KumBaZoom	13 10-12 Food Pantry  2:30 Backpack  7:00 GA	14 10-12 Food Pantry	15
16 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 am Choir	17 10-12 Food Pantry	18 10-12 Food Pantry  11:00 Mission Meeting  7:00 Session Meeting	19 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 KumBaZoom	20 10-12 Food Pantry  2:30 Backpack  7:00 GA	21 10-12 Food Pantry	22 
23 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 am Choir	24 10-12 Food Pantry	25 10-12 Food Pantry	26 10-12 Food Pantry  7:00 KumBaZoom  	27 10-12 Food Pantry  2:30 Backpack  7:00 GA	28	29
30 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Fellowship 11:30 am Choir						



Melba Cordell.....4/2 Jake Gray.....4/18  
 Jacob Karleskint.....4/2 Sarah Lomax.....4/23  
 Shawn Spencer.....4/7 Elia Rendel.....4/24  
 Kai Liwai.....4/8 Howard Condren.....4/27  
 Tim Keith.....4/17 Kiara Richards.....4/30

Should your name be here?  
 Please let the office know your birth date so we can include you!



April Fool's Day  
Saturday, April 1st



Palm Sunday  
Sunday, April 2nd



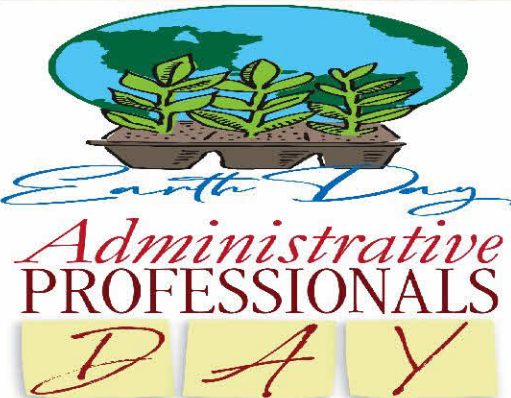
Maundy Thursday  
Thursday, April 6th



Good Friday  
Friday, April 7th



Easter Sunday  
Sunday, April 9th



Earth Day  
Sunday, April 22nd

Administrative Professionals Day  
Wednesday, April 26th

## Servers in the Lord's House

	Coffee Host	Backpack
<b>April 2</b>	Open	<b>Apr 5     John &amp; Melinda</b>
<b>April 9</b>	Easter Breakfast	<b>Apr 13     Kit &amp; Chuck</b>
<b>April 16</b>	Open	<b>Apr 20     Open</b>
<b>April 23</b>	Open	<b>Apr 27     Open</b>
<b>April 30</b>	Open	

Please call the office or talk to Pastor Ray to sign up for servers slots!



If you are interested in purchasing an Easter Lily to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday just call the church office, costs will be \$18.50 each. Orders are due by Wednesday, April 5th.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication: \_\_\_\_\_

For example: "Jim Smith in Loving Memory of His wife Della"  
Or "Lee Price in Celebration of Family both here and in Heaven."





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A Note from Bill Giffhorn:

Hi Nancy – Thanks for the nice letter. I really miss you folks in Miami, especially those of you at First Presby. Please pass my regards on to Pastor Ray and to any others you run into.

I am sure that Lisa will be pleased to get the pictures that you are sending her.

Not much else to report. I have been on Dialysis for a little over a year now. It is a four-hour session three times a week. Not much fun but it beats the alternative.

Thanks again and take care.

Bill Giffhorn



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Dr. John Letcher

Those of you who have been long time members will remember the Letcher family. The father, Charles, was a physician and a retired Admiral in the Navy. The Letcher's had four sons. The death of the second son, Dr. John Letcher, was recently announced in the Tulsa World. Both Charles and Isabelle were strong members of our church.

Nancy Gee

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## **Keep Malawi in our prayers**

Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery (EOP) received a letter from CCAP Synod of Livingstonia on March 20th. In the letter were pictures and facts about how Malawi was affected by Cyclone Freddy and the drought that they are having in the Northern region of the Country. The death toll from Freddy is 361 with 280 still missing. Over 11,000 people are displaced from the storm. A severe drought has hit hard with a loss of agriculture fields wilting. Maize and Rice are all gone due to this. Here are just a few of the pictures in that letter.

The letter is printed out and will be posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for anyone who wishes to read it.





*"And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."*

~ Luke 24:5-7



*The First Presbyterian Church  
1410 N.E. Veterans Blvd.  
Miami, OK 74354*