

“Eastertide”

As Lent is coming to a close and the Day of Resurrection looming large upon us, I realize that very often, when we think of Easter, we think of it being just one Sunday of the year on which we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. However, the church liturgical calendar thinks of it very differently: Not only does it treat each and every Sunday a mini-Easter — because Jesus was raised on the first day of the week — but as a season called Eastertide.

According to *The Services of the Christian Year*: Eastertide, or the Easter Season, begins on Easter Sunday and continues until Pentecost in the Christian liturgical calendar for a total span of seven weeks. We celebrate Easter more than just Easter Sunday because it is the defining event of Christianity, and so the Church has always observed it for longer than the Day itself. The liturgical color is white or gold, the Pascal candle is kept lit and the worship services end with a special ‘Alleluia.’ Scripture lessons during this season are from the New Testament only, saying what happened after the Resurrection. The Thursday in the sixth week of Easter marks Ascension Day, as Jesus was taken up into heaven.

I believe the reason why Eastertide is so important in the lifecycle of the Church can be seen in how the lives of the disciples had been transformed from being afraid and powerless, even after some had witnessed the risen Lord (as most of them went back to their old line of work in fishing), to becoming completely different people when they were able to preach the word of God with power and conviction, which resulted in literally thousands of people from all over the region coming forward to profess their faith in Jesus the risen Lord (Acts 2)!

So what happened between Easter and Pentecost — in a period of just fifty days — that the disciples seemed to have been totally transformed from timid fishermen to dynamic evangelists? First of all, they all experienced restoration in their relationship with Jesus, with the most obvious one being Peter: Peter, who denied Jesus three times on the night when he was betrayed, was sought out by Jesus specifically on the beach after the resurrection, and was restored and even commissioned to “feed” and “tend” Jesus’ sheep and lambs (John 21:15-17).

Another one was Thomas: Thomas was missing when Jesus first appeared to the disciples behind “locked” doors after he was raised from the dead, and Thomas expressed doubt when later told by the disciples that they “have seen the Lord.” Jesus appeared to him a week later and restored him to be a person of faith when Thomas cried out to him, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:24-28).

Then, there was the incident by the Sea of Tiberias when Jesus taught the fishermen-turned-disciples-turned-fishermen how to fish and then cooked breakfast for them and restored their faith in him (John 21:1-14). The disciples later also witnessed Jesus’ ascension but not before he had given them the “Great Commission” (Matthew 28:16-20) and told them to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

Secondly, all these events helped to strengthen the faith of the disciples and prepare them for Pentecost. It was on the day of Pentecost that the disciples encountered the powerful presence and indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which gave them extraordinary ability to proclaim “God’s deeds of power” to the people gathered in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-13).

Again, why is Eastertide so important in a Christian’s life? Because it provides a special time for us to examine ourselves in our relationship with the risen Lord and prepares us for Pentecost — to be filled again by the Holy Spirit who empowers us to do the work that Jesus has commissioned us to do: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

May we all experience the presence and power of the risen Lord this Eastertide, and accomplish for him great things in sharing our faith with others!

Yours in Christ,




3400 N. Atlantic Avenue
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
321-783-6085

Email: office@riversidepresbyterianchurch.org



April Birthdays

Claire Burton	4/1
Roxanne Stout	4/1
Jenny Walker	4/1
Mike Reed	4/10
Tom White	4/17
Linda Gibson	4/26
Becky Reed	4/26
Paula Yost	4/27



DONATE BLOOD

The OneBlood bus will be at Riverside Sunday, April 6th from 9:00am-1:00pm.

Walk-ins are welcome. However, reservations, which can be made on the OneBlood website, www.oneblood.org, are preferred.

Please consider donating blood before or after church. Each donation changes lives!



LENTEN STUDY

It is not too late to join us Wednesday evenings for our Lenten study by Max Lucado, *He Chose the Nails*, which will continue through Lenten Season. We are offering a light meal at 6:00pm, cost of which is \$7 per person. The study will begin at 6:45pm in the Fellowship Hall.

In *He Chose the Nails*, New York Times bestselling author and pastor Max Lucado will help you:

- Learn just how much God loves and cares for you.
- Take comfort that Jesus understands everything you face in this life.
- Remember that there's nothing you can do to earn God's gift.
- Stand firm in the promise that you are forgiven, and you are welcome in God's presence.



DISCIPLE

UNDER THE TREE OF LIFE

DISCIPLE: Under the Tree of Life is the final study in the four-phase Disciple program. The study concentrates on the Writings (Old Testament books not in the Torah or the Prophets), the Gospel of John, and Revelation.

Join us each **Monday at 1:00pm** in Knox Hall, beginning **April 21**, led by Pastor Bill. All are welcome!

Photographer Wanted

We are looking for a talented photographer! We would like to have pictures of our stained-glass windows taken on-level (from a ladder), while the sun is brightly shining through them. Are you a photography hobbyist, amateur, or professional willing to share your talent with Riverside? Please contact the church office if you're able to help.



Worship with Us!

IN-PERSON AND "LIVE" BROADCAST
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:00am
www.riversidepresbyterianchurch.org



Holy Week

Palm Sunday Service
April 13th, 10:00am

Easter Sunrise Service
Sidney Fischer Park
April 20th, 7:00am

Maundy Thursday Service
April 17th, 7:00pm

Easter Worship Service
April 20th, 10:00am



Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 20, 2025
7:00am

Sidney Fischer Park
2200 N. Atlantic Ave.
Cocoa Beach

(Bring a chair or towel to sit on)



Catered Easter Breakfast

After Sunrise service at Sidney Fischer Park, come over to Riverside and enjoy breakfast catered by Street Cuisine Food Truck, which will be located outside the Fellowship Hall. Pick up your breakfast and come inside the Fellowship Hall and enjoy coffee, drinks and fellowship before our Easter Worship Service at 10:00am.

No Cost (but you are welcome to donate in the Fellowship Hall to offset costs).

We look forward to seeing you Easter morning!!



On Stewardship, by Dennis Ormseth

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15): stewardship of the earth is the original vocation of humankind, and it is still foundational for earth’s well-being. “Till and keep” compels my personal attention because my father was an implement dealer in northern Montana. My family’s prosperity depended on the sale of machinery used to till hundreds of thousands of acres, mostly wheat shipped by rail to mills and ports in Minnesota. Those machines are emblematic of how we transformed the landscape of Montana, and the Dakotas and Minnesota as well — indeed, of the whole Mississippi watershed. A drive through this vast, richly productive countryside shows how fully we have taken this mandate “to till”: some estimate that over half of the land is planted in row crops.

“Keeping” the earth, preserving its fertility for future generations, is another matter entirely. True, our land grant universities make a great study of soil science; we have sheltered exposed earth from winds; but mainly we keep up the soil’s productivity — which is not to say fertility — with inorganic fertilizers. Too often we plow to the edge of our rivers and lakes, destroying the borders of wild grasses, trees or shrubs that not only provide critical refuge for birds, bees, turtles, frogs and other wildlife, but are also nature’s way of filtering pollutants. So fertilizers seeps into the waters that course through the land. Toxic for aquatic life, they promote excessive growth of algae and decrease the levels of oxygen, leading to the death of fish and other aquatic fauna and flora. Thus do land, water, and creatures suffer from our presence.

Key to understanding this failure to “keep” the earth is our use of fossil fuels. To be sure, “till, baby, till,” was our cry well before “drill, baby, drill,” but we could not do the former as we have without the latter. Fossil fuels power those machines; petroleum is a major source of inorganic fertilizers. They also power transport of resources to manufacturers and products to market. They generate electricity for our utility networks and ever greater levels of consumption. They tie our world together in ever more complex relationships of supply and demand. Till and keep the earth? The great difficulty is that the means we have devised for tilling the earth makes it nearly inconceivable that we can at the same time “keep it,” or even believe we need to. As Lutheran ethicist Larry Rasmussen writes, fossil fuels have fostered the illusion that “we can wholly know and control the ecosphere, that its own rhythms and requirements can be bypassed or bent to our design.” Our use of such power leads us to believe that we can meet our needs without any sustained commitment to meeting earth’s needs at all. But now the “uninvited blow to this illusion,” Rasmussen rightly warns, is the result that “every major life system [is] in decline and the rude appearance of that wildest of wild cards, accelerated and extreme climate change. What that means for all life systems reaching for a future we only perceive through a smoky glass” (*Earth-honoring Faith*, p. 54).

“Till and keep”: how do we fulfill both mandates in the face of such overwhelming addiction to fossil fuels? Bible scholar Ellen Davis would have us translate the words “till and keep” as “serve and preserve.” Stewards of the earth with the mind of the Christ, who “emptied himself, taking the form of a slave” (Philippians 2:6-7), and through whom “God was pleased to reconcile all things to himself” (Colossians 1:20) would do well to follow her advice, repent of our fossil-fuel fed illusions, and witness by our example that humankind’s “tilling” can truly serve God’s earth; preserving her fertility would then follow in due course as a work of love.

— Reprinted from Center for Stewardship Leaders
Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

Dennis Ormseth is a retired Lutheran pastor working to promote care of creation in congregations of the Minneapolis Area Synod and the wider ELCA.

Riverside Presbyterian Church to Charter a Cub Scout Troop!



Riverside Presbyterian Church is joining a long history of partnership between the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Boy Scouts of America (Now, referred to as "Scouting America" and chartered by the U.S. Congress). The mutually beneficial partnership between the PC(USA) and BSA has gone on for more than a century (1918-2018), with a new 100 year partnership signed in 2019, taking it to 2119! Local PC(USA) congregations now charter Scouting units with a combined registered membership that exceeds 146,000 youth and adults in more than 3,800 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams and Venturing crews across the nation.

Recently, Riverside's Session was approached to consider chartering a Cub Scout Troop because of our Community and Children-minded missions-focus. The Session voted a resounding "YES!". Our very own, Teri Beeler volunteered to be the first "Chartered Organization Representative" as the liaison between the Chartered Scout Troop and Riverside. Scouting America staff will soon be heading to the local schools in the Cocoa Beach and Cape Canaveral areas to announce that a new Cub Scout Troop is being formed. When sufficient youth have expressed interest, a Cub Scout troop will be chartered and they will begin having weekly den meetings at Riverside, using one of the rooms in Calvin Hall.

CUB SCOUTS

Cub Scouts are for boys and girls in kindergarten through 5th grade. It's where ADVENTURE meets FUN and FRIENDS! It's where friendships are forged, memories are etched and character begins to take shape. It's more than just an after-school activity; Cub Scouting becomes part of life's journey.

"Scouting America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God. In the first part of the Scout Oath the member declares, 'On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Laws' The recognition of God as the ruling and leading power in the universe and the grateful acknowledgement of His favors and blessings are necessary to be the best type of citizenship and are wholesome precepts in the education of the growing member."

The Boy Scouts of America

Are You Interested in Serving the Cub Scouts as a Committee Board Member?

In addition to a Charter Organization Representative (Teri Beeler from Riverside) and a Pack Leader (for the Cub Scouts - which we hope will be one of the parents), we'd like to have two additional adults to serve on the Committee Board. They usually meet (in-person or zoom) once a month to ensure things are running smoothly and help suggest/organize any fundraising for special Cub Scout activities that might need support. Please let Teri Beeler (teribeeler@yahoo.com) or Anda Ray (andaray77@gmail.com) know if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity.

THE JOURNEY HAS JUST BEGUN! COME BE PART OF IT!

Quarterly Presbytery Meeting



Reverend William “Bill” Teng was unanimously approved for membership in Central Florida Presbytery at the March 8 Quarterly Presbytery meeting held at Grace Presbyterian Church in Orlando Florida. His service as the Interim Pastor at Riverside Presbyterian Church in Cocoa Beach was also approved. Pastor Bill was accompanied by his wife, Karen, for this session.

Riverside’s voting Elder Representative for this Presbytery meeting was Tom White, accompanied by his wife, Susan and Anda Ray. Topics cover during this Presbytery meeting included:

- ◆ Commissioned Sheryl Chernault as a Commissioned Ruling Elder to serve at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church.
- ◆ Received William “Bill” Teng into membership at Central Florida Presbytery, pending dismissal from Peace River Presbytery. Bill will be serving as the interim pastor at Riverside Presbyterian Church in Cocoa, FL.
- ◆ Various Terms of Call were approved. All ministers should file a change in terms of call every year, whether the terms change or not.
- ◆ Approved the dismissal agreement between New Life Presbyterian Church and Central Florida Presbytery.
- ◆ The following Amendments to the Book of Order (2023-2025) that passed included: (not all listed here)

Amendment 24-A, F-1.0403:	Adds the categories of gender identity and sexual orientation to the list of protected classes in the Unity in Diversity section of Foundations of Presbyterian Polity.
Amendment 24-B, G-1.0104:	Allows sessions and presbyteries to create other forms of corporate witness (new worshipping communities, immigrant fellowships, etc.) outside of formally organized congregations.
Amendment 24-D, G-2.0504b:	Lengthens maximum terms of service for temporary pastoral relationships from twelve months to 36 months.
Amendment 24-K, D-7.0501:	Clarifies that a clerk of session or stated clerk must report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to civil authorities when received in an allegation of offense.
Item 24-M:	Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries

- ◆ Strategic Planning Team lead a time to help facilitate the work of Strategic Planning Committee as they discern the presbytery’s future.
- ◆ Received the Annual Necrology Report and celebrated the saints (Central Florida Presbytery Pastors, Elders, etc.) during worship.

A total of 135 persons attended the meeting. Sixty-seven Presbyterian churches are in the Central Florida Presbytery. Upcoming Stated Presbytery meeting dates and locations:

- Thursday, June 5, 2025 – 2:00pm – Rockledge Presbyterian Church
- Tuesday, September 9, 2025 – 9:30am – Zoom
- Tuesday, December 2, 2025 – 9:30am – First Presbyterian Church New Smyrna

*Anyone is permitted to register and attend, however, only the church’s Pastor and Session-approved voting Elder(s) may vote.



This year the Presbyterian Women are looking at God's call to care for our neighbors and for creation with a study entitled "Let Justice Roll Down." If you are interested in joining one of the circles, please contact **Gail Marshall, Betty Peterson or Paula Yost.**

Both circles meet in Knox Parlor.
Hannah/Ruth/Rebecca meets
the 3rd Tuesday at 1:00pm

Deborah meets **the 3rd Wednesday at 2:00pm**



The Wednesday Afternoon Ladies' Bible Study has been on a break during Lent. We will resume meeting after Easter, **Wednesday, April 23, at 2:00pm** in Knox Parlor (also available via Zoom).

We continue to enjoy "Old Testament Stories from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas.
Contact **Paula Yost** for more information if you would like join us Wednesday afternoons.

Sunday School

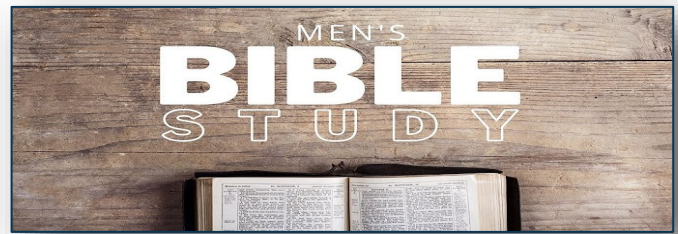
9:00am

K-5th grade/Fusion Youth

Adults

A study of the doctrine of The Trinity
Knox Parlor

Essentials of Faith: Why Do We Need the Bible?
(Ladies class)
Knox Galilee



Men's Bible Study meets **Wednesday's at 8:30am** in-person in Knox Parlor and via Zoom. Afterwards we go to breakfast for more fellowship time.

If you prefer to join us via Zoom please contact **Tom White** at 614-849-8741 or via email at didymus623@gmail.com for a Zoom link.



We come together each Wednesday morning at 10am to pray for the needs of our church family and friends. There are blue cards in the pews that you can fill out, or you can email me at biddle310@gmail.com

Jane Lovett

Pray with Us For...

- Loved ones
- Those who have illness or loss
- Our military personnel
- Our missionaries
- Our nation
- Our church

2025 Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for the Sanctuary, the sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

After the flowers are enjoyed on Sunday morning, you have the option taking them home or the Deacons can deliver them to those who can no longer join us on Sundays.
The cost remains \$35.00.



***Please include your phone number on the sign-up sheet.**



Sharing Center of Central Brevard

Sharing Center of Central Brevard provides emergency assistance and guidance to those in our community who struggle to obtain life’s most basic needs. They operate a community kitchen for the hungry, have thrift stores in Cocoa, Merritt Island and Melbourne, have a food pantry and operate a cold-night shelter when temperatures get low.



Beachside, many area churches refer homeless and needy people to St. Vincent de Paul, who serve as a local resource providing emergency assistance in areas of short-term food needs, auto gas and referrals to other agencies.

Programs are intended to fill needs that result from a crisis, so the aid is, in effect, a hand-up and not a “free” handout to a low-income family



Second Harvest Food Bank collects donated food and distributes it to more than 625 feeding partners/organizations who have feeding ministries that help our neighbors who need food assistance.

Riverside Food Pantry



Did you ever wonder where the food placed in the shopping cart in the narthex and Fellowship Hall goes? The bulk of this food is taken to the food pantry at St. Vincent de Paul here in Cocoa Beach.



Donations have been down lately —

what can you bring put in the cart to help our needy neighbors?



The Missions Team has, once again, opted to support Servant Partners and Betty Peterson’s granddaughter, Denise Anderson, who lives in a north Philly neighborhood and reaches out to those who live around them with Christ’s love, working to literally clean up their neighborhood, as well as developing local leadership to build positive community relationships. She also helps her neighbors with resources to meet their needs.

We also chose to support the welding program (ReIGNITE Philly) that gives training that will lead participants to a job and better income.



2025 Financial (as of February 28th)

Income	\$94,253
Operating Expenses	\$53,030
Net Income	\$41,223

Faithful Stewardship

Thank you for your continued financial support!

God's work never stops...and therefore, neither does ours, blessings!

Douglas Kasimier , Treasurer, (dkasimier@aol.com)

Session Update

Session met in-person on March 18 with Pastor Bill Teng moderating. Session welcomed Bob Howard and Paula Yost back. We thanked Jenny Lyons for her service as she rotated off.

The leadership of Session "Teams" are as follows:

- Communications Team: Meghan Johnson
- Property Team: Bob Howard
- Mission Team: Carl Plaughter
- Staff Resource Team: Mark Gordon
- Stewardship & Finance Team: Tom White
- Congregational Life Team: Paula Yost
- Worship & Sacrament Team: Ann Stone
- Community Engagement Team: Anda Ray
- Education & Spiritual Development Team: Teri Beeler

If you are interested in becoming a member of any of these teams as an at-large member, please contact the church office, or any of the session members.

Next Session meeting: **Tuesday, April 15, 7:00pm**

Diaconate Update

The Deacons met on March 11.

The caring person for April and May is Susan White. Monthly caring persons through February 2026 were also assigned.

The Easter flowers will be delivered on April 17. Carolyn Hattaway and Claire Burton will assist Fern in arranging the pots in the sanctuary.

Continued prayers were requested for Wanda Cook who broke her hip and for Marianne's daughter, Darian, who is facing health and home repair challenges.

The next meeting will be on **April 8 at 7:00pm.**

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Bill Teng

Interim Pastor

Betsie Germann

Administrative Assistant

Diana Amtower

Traditional Music Leader

Keaton Belliveau

Psalm 66 Praise Band Leader

Doug Kasimier

Treasurer

Chuck Torgler

Custodian

Karen Ward

Web/IT/AV

Church Officers

SESSION

Carl Plaughter '25	Ann Stone '26
Tom White '25	Meghan Johnson '27
Mark Gordon '25	Paula Yost '27
Anda Ray '26	Robert Howard '27
Teri Beeler '26	

DEACONS

Lindalee Torgler '25	Janice Eastes '26
Susan White '25	Tammy Ivan '26
Fern Wolle '25	Jorge Castillo '27
Carolyn Hattaway '26	



APRIL

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 8:30am Men's Study 9:30am Stitchin' Sisters 10am Care & Support 10am Prayer Circle 6pm Lenten Meal 6:45pm Lenten Study	3 7pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 9am Youth & Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Time 11am Communications	7 1pm Disciple Study 7pm NA Meeting	8 7pm Deacons Meeting	9 8:30am Men's Study 10am Prayer Circle 6pm Lenten Meal 6:45pm Lenten Study	10 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Christian Education	11	12
13 9am Youth & Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Time 11am Worship & Sacrament	14 1pm Disciple Study 7pm NA Meeting	15 1pm HRR Circle 7pm Session Meeting	16 8:30am Men's Study 9:30am Stitchin' Sisters 10am Prayer Circle	17 7pm Maundy Thursday	18	19
20 7am Sunrise Service 9am Youth & Adult SS 10am Easter Worship 11am Fellowship Time	21 1pm Disciple Study 7pm NA Meeting	22 7pm Missions Meeting	23 8:30am Men's Study 10am Prayer Circle 2pm Women's Study	24 7pm Choir Rehearsal	25	26
27 9am Youth & Adult SS 10am Worship 11am Fellowship Time	28 1pm Disciple Study 6:30pm Community Engagement 7pm NA Meeting	29	30 8:30am Men's Study 9:30am Stitchin' Sisters 10am Prayer Circle 2pm Women's Study			