

**8<sup>th</sup> & Holly newsletter**  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 85 South Holly Street  
 Medford, Oregon 97501

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*Faithful to God; Grounded in Love,  
 responsive to the world.*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
 Church**

**8<sup>th</sup> & Holly**

Our 139<sup>th</sup> year

**Nurturing people in body, mind, and soul for the glory of God**

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Medford, Oregon

April 2024

## Music veterans play April vespers

This month's vesper services feature musicians who've been at it for quite a while. The April 28 Classical Vespers presents the Pacific Arts Ensemble, chamber musicians who began playing together 42 years ago. The April 14 Jazz Vespers showcases the Janus Jazz Quartet and a vocalist well known in the Rogue Valley.

Both services are at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Pacific Arts, formed in 1982, is making its fourth appearance in Southern Oregon. It features a cello, harp and flute. Ashland flautist Angela Koregelos, co-director of our Classical Vespers, is a founding member of the trio. She's joined by Dan Reiter on cello and Natalie Cox on harp. They founded the group while playing with the Oakland Symphony Orchestra.



Reiter

Cox

Koregelos



McCoy

Davidson

Miller

Polson

Janus Jazz Quartet includes two Rogue Valley Symphony musicians who play a lot of jazz, Theresia McCoy on drums and Dave Miller on bass. They are joined by Thor Polson, piano, and Steve Davidson on saxophone. Christine Williams is the Janus vocalist. She's a local performing artist and vocal soloist.

Fine art photos by Tom Glassman will be in our Hall Gallery during April. Glassman, the former creative director for advertising agencies, shoots both film and digital photos – most taken with a family of Nikon lenses he began accumulating over the decades.



## From the pastor's study

By Murray Richmond

Where did the Easter bunny come from? The Bible makes no mention of a long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to well-behaved children on Easter Sunday; nevertheless, the Easter bunny has become a prominent symbol of Christianity's most important holiday.

The first thing we need to understand is that, like Christmas, Easter has taken in some pagan traditions, the Easter Bunny being one of them. We get the English word Easter from the Old English *Oestre*. Oestre was an old name for the month of

April, which came from a Norse god. (Most of our days of the week have the same origin: Thursday = Thor's day, Wednesday = Wotan's day, Friday = Frieda's day, all Norse gods.)

Since the resurrection of Jesus was usually celebrated in the month of Oestre, that turned into the English word Easter.

The primary reason we celebrate Easter is the resurrection of Jesus. But there are other symbols attached to the holiday. Most cultures had a version of the myth which C.S. Lewis called "The Corn King." The Corn King was sacrificed during the sowing season and is reborn when the crops grow. So Easter is also a symbol for fertility. Anyone who has raised rabbits knows they can be quite fertile creatures!

The symbol of the bunny goes even deeper. It is notoriously hard to determine the gender of a rabbit, and in ancient times people assumed that all rabbits were female, and their children were products of a virgin birth. Of course, that ties Jesus to the symbol of the bunny.

We Christians can enjoy the Easter bunny, and have egg hunts, but for us the primary reason for Easter is the resurrection. While it is a historical fact, it is also a symbol—a symbol of hope in the face of utter despair. From the tomb came new life. It is a symbol that we can be changed (in body, mind, and spirit). It is a symbol that God can do the impossible and that Jesus is just the first-fruits of the resurrection. We will all follow in His footsteps.

I hope you have a meaningful and happy Easter. Next up, Pentecost!



Image credit: ElsieBee Designs



# April at First

- 1 Monday**  
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women's meeting**, Fellowship Hall
- 2 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
- 3 Wednesday**  
5:30 p.m. **Choir Practice**, Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m. **"Men's Unloaded" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 5 Friday**  
6:30 p.m. **"It Checks Out" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fellowship Hall
- 6 Saturday**  
Noon **"Attitude of Gratitude" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room  
Noon **Women's Fellowship luncheon**, Black Bear Diner, 1150 E Barnett Rd  
7 p.m. **"Circle of Friends" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 7 Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall  
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
- 8 Monday**  
4:15 p.m. **Christian Ed Committee**, Library  
6:30 p.m. **Mission Committee**, Fireplace Room  
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women's meeting**, Fellowship Hall
- 9 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
- 10 Wednesday**  
5:30 p.m. **Choir Practice**, Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m. **"Men's Unloaded" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room



Women's Fellowship heads to the Black Bear Diner on Barnett Road in Medford for their monthly luncheon. It will be at noon, on Saturday April 8. There's a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. For more information call Evonne Hubbard.

- 12 Friday**  
6:30 p.m. **"It Checks Out" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fellowship Hall
- 13 Saturday**  
Noon **"Attitude of Gratitude" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room  
7 p.m. **"Circle of Friends" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 14 Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall  
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary  
5 p.m. **Jazz Vespers, Janus Jazz Quartet**, Sanctuary
- 15 Monday**  
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women's meeting**, Fellowship Hall
- 16 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
- 17 Wednesday**  
5:30 p.m. **Choir Practice**, Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m. **"Men's Unloaded" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 18 Thursday**  
9 a.m. **Personnel Committee**, Library  
10 a.m. **Finance Committee**, workroom  
1 p.m. **Women's Fellowship**, craft time, location TBA
- 19 Friday**  
6:30 p.m. **"It Checks Out" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fellowship Hall

- 20 Saturday**  
8 a.m. **Narcotics Anonymous Hospitals & Institutions** group, all day  
Noon **"Attitude of Gratitude" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room  
7 p.m. **"Circle of Friends" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 21 Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall  
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary  
12:15 p.m. **Deacons**, Fireside Room
- 22 Monday**  
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women's meeting**, Fellowship Hall
- 23 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.  
6:30 p.m. **Session**, Fireside Room
- 24 Wednesday**  
5:30 p.m. **Choir Practice**, Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m. **"Men's Unloaded" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 26 Friday**  
6:30 p.m. **"It Checks Out" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fellowship Hall
- 27 Saturday**  
Noon **"Attitude of Gratitude" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room  
7 p.m. **"Circle of Friends" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 28 Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall  
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary  
5 p.m. **Classical Vespers, Pacific Arts Ensemble**, Sanctuary
- 30 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.

## Changing the guard

With some newly elected leaders installed, Session and the Board of Deacons have reorganized for the program year which began in March. Named committee chairs are Diana Kelley, fellowship; Cathy de Wolfe, finance; Bob Frey, mission; Carol Holst, personnel; Monty Holst, building and grounds; Marthanne Dedrick, nominating and Patty Herkert, worship and music. Session is still working on finding leaders for the Christian education and church growth committees and is seeking a clerk following Harlow Head's resignation effective this week. Elected co-moderators of the Board of Deacons for 2024 are Marilyn Hultquist and Jan Grunwald. The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking nominees for three vacancies on Session and three vacancies on the Board of Deacons.

"What if I fall?"  
"Oh, but my darling, what if you fly?"  
- Erin Hansen

**The Easter Butterfly**  
A Butterfly gleams  
in front of a crowd;  
donned in turquoise  
and a Navajo gown.  
For it's Easter in  
the sleepy Arizona town.  
The Butterfly preaches  
the Butterfly sounds;  
"You can fly;  
But the cocoon has to go--"  
Among the whispered "hush"  
from mothers to baby cries;  
a chorus of eyes pressed  
on the shimmering Butterfly.  
In a pulpit for man  
the Butterfly glistens;  
a Reverend speaks

She strikes a tone  
I'll never know again.  
She knows we all can become  
Like the Good Samaritan.  
Her words promise bloom;  
more than a chiseled tomb,  
For we all await to be re-  
newed;  
a cherished time to shed  
cocoon.

-- Sedona L. Sayers  
[granddaughter of the late Rev. Barbara Haddon who preached a sermon on butterflies]

Monarch image:  
Tony Hisgett from Birmingham, UK, CC BY 2.0,  
via Wikimedia Commons

### April birthdays

- 2 Jim Rhodes
- 8 Joni Smith
- 11 Sibyl Vernon
- 13 Charlotte Heintz  
Pat Collins
- 15 Ann Lowe
- 18 Scott Harrison
- 23 Jan Barrett
- 26 Rita Reitz
- 28 Cathy de Wolfe
- 30 Ellen Heintz

### Expanding the mission

Our ministry to the downtown hungry and unhoused is expanding. Session this week approved use of our facilities by street nurses when they offer medical consultations. Mission Committee will work out details in April.

### Egg stuffers



Josie Metz and Nikki Keating work their way through the dozens of plastic Easter eggs donated by the congregation for use at our Community Easter Egg Hunt

held Saturday morning in Alba Park.

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Pastor ...Rev. Murray Richmond  
Congregational Care Associate  
.....Mike Hubbard  
Associate for Visitation and  
Pastoral Care  
.....Rev. Mary Wright Gillespie  
Minister of Music and Media  
.....Tony Chunn  
Administrative & Financial Assis-  
tant.....Elizbeth Mahan

Sarah Corson Childcare & Learn-  
ing Center.....Jaime Snider

### Session Committee chairs

Building & Grounds—Monty Holst  
(541) 324-1630  
Christian Education—Vacant

Church Growth — Vacant

Fellowship— Diana Kelley  
(541) 282-3496  
Finance — Cathy de Wolfe  
(541) 773-7350

Personnel—Carol Holst  
(541) 324-1664  
Mission— Bob Frey  
1-(503) 779-5558

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prior to publication

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