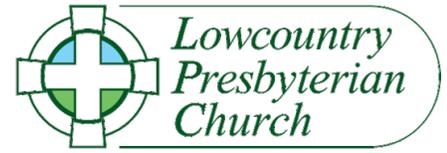




# The Light



April 2020

*Join Us  
Online  
For  
Holy Week  
Services*

**April 5th Palm Sunday**

Processional with Palms

"Who Is This?"

Matthew 21:1-11

(Available online 8:30am and later April 5th)



**Maundy Thursday**

Virtual Communion and Service of Tenebrae  
(instructions will be sent prior)

As the passion narrative is read and music is shared,  
the light of Jesus' life is slowly extinguished.

(Available online 7pm and later on April 9th)

**April 12th Easter Sunday**

Service of The Resurrection

Special music by Jerry Anderson

(Available online 8:30am and later on April 12th)

## SAVE the DATE

### LPC Retreat to Montreat, NC October 23rd-25th

While registration has been delayed, we are still hoping to be together as a Church Family enjoying fall color, fellowship, faith enrichment and fun. Watch for more details.



Here are pictures Chris took earlier in March.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHURCH GIVING**

While church services are being suspended for the next three weeks, we encourage LPC Members and others who worship with us to continue to support the church. Expenses for pastors, staff, and facilities are incurred every month. Checks can be mailed to Lowcountry Presbyterian Church, 10 Simmonsville Rd., Bluffton, SC 29910 or there are several electronic options available for you described below:

- You can contribute to LPC by using electronic bill pay through your bank checking or savings account. Several LPC members use online bill pay every month.
- You can provide Gayle Myers, Financial Assistant with your bank account and routing numbers to set up monthly draft payments. Please leave her a message and she will get back to you as soon as she can. Her phone number is 843-815-6570. *(Reminder: Never send personal or financial information by email.)* More information was provided about this option in the March Newsletter on page 11.
- You can use the Online Giving Program of the Presbyterian Foundation which has partnered with Vanco Payment Solutions. The Administration and Finance Ministry Team is in the process of setting up this service and adding a donation button at [www.lowcountrypres.org](http://www.lowcountrypres.org). An email will be sent to church members as soon as the donor program is operational. Members will be able to set up recurring donations so your pledges continue while Sunday service is suspended, you are traveling, or away for the summer.



Both the Chancel Choir and Jubilate Ringers have suspended rehearsals until further notice because of the quarantine. We miss gathering together and making music and look forward to the day we can begin rehearsing and participating in worship services. Stay healthy and join in the virtual worship services. Thinking of you all at this time and praying for all of us.

***Our thanks to Clarke Marshall*** for cleaning and re-staining the two benches on the front porch of the sanctuary. When we gather again, you are invited to admire and have a seat!





## COMMUNICATIONS

### Staying Connected by phone and video-conferencing Using **Zoom**

Zoom is a user-friendly platform to communicate with single or multi-users for meetings, chat, and more. It is a way to video-chat with people and make connections face-to-face. LPC has started using Zoom to conduct some meetings and small groups. If you are interested in using Zoom for personal use, I encourage you to create an account online at Zoom.com. If you receive an invite to join a church ministry meeting, a bible story, or prayer gathering, you will be sent a link. If you receive a link to join an already scheduled meeting, no account is necessary. If you do not have a computer with a camera or microphone, there are ways to use a cell phone or landline to connect to these group chats.

#### How it works:

- In order to join a meeting you have been invited to, open the email invitation and, if you have a computer or smartphone, click on the link under "Join Zoom Meeting". It will ask you to download Zoom, click accept, you can then choose to finish downloading the app or you can click "Open in Browser" to just use your web browser. You may be asked to type your name in before clicking "Open in Browser." Accept any requests for Zoom to access your audio/video in your computer.
- If you don't have a computer, there is a way to call in from a cell phone or landline. The number is located in the email invitation (or can be shared over the phone for those without email/internet access). When you receive the invitation and meeting phone number, you will dial the number like you would any other phone number. You will then be asked to dial the Meeting ID (also found in the invitation) once the call goes through. You will then be connected to the meeting.
- The Invitation will look similar to this:

*Stephanie Dion is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.*

*Topic: Lenten Small Group*

*Time: Apr 2, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)*

*Join Zoom Meeting*

*<https://zoom.us/j/271465020>*

*Meeting ID: 271 465 020*

*One tap mobile*

*+19292056099,,271465020# US (New York)*

*Dial by your location*

*+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)*

*Meeting ID: 271 465 020*

To see more specifics and a step by step guide with pictures on how to use, click here:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac>

Please contact Zoom or Pastor Stephanie ([pastorstephaniedion@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstephaniedion@gmail.com)) with any questions, or issues regarding using this platform.

## COMMUNICATIONS CONTINUED

Another way to hold meetings remotely is through conference calls. It is easy to set up an account with [freeconferencecall.com](http://freeconferencecall.com) for meetings by phone. Just click the link provided.

### Update on Our Membership Directory:

Our membership directory is finished, but the proof is delayed due to Lifetouch temporarily closing. We will let you know when the final product is available. In the meantime, we welcome ideas for our next projects, revising our website and the pew brochure.

**Join us for** our next meeting Wednesday, 4/22 at 11am via Zoom. If you are interested, please let Janit know at (845) 527-6409 or [janitmaguire@gmail.com](mailto:janitmaguire@gmail.com), and we will send you instructions on how to join the meeting.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

The Christian Education team is working on ideas for classes and engagement remotely. We hope you will stay tuned for announcements on classes after Holy Week. In the meantime, we hope you are enjoying the Lenten devotionals we have provided and that they are bringing you comfort.

### MEN OF PURPOSE (MOP) on Saturday mornings

At this point Men Of Purpose **IS NOT MEETING**. We may resume in May, but that depends on what happens between now and then. Further communications will be made closer to that time.

We pray for everyone's health and safety.

Questions? Contact Bill Walker, [billwalker42@gmail.com](mailto:billwalker42@gmail.com).



Our thanks to Wim Teckelenburg for his second round of sanding and re-painting our iron rails, this time outside the office. We thank him for performing such labor intensive work to keep our property attractive and in good shape.

## Christian Caring Ministry

I thank all the members of the Christian Caring and Visitation Teams for their willingness to help individuals from our Congregation during this time of uncertainty and need.

As Chris so passionately said in our first online worship service's sermon and Karen, Janie and Robin so beautifully stated in music, in times of trouble and uncertainty sometimes we can be "blind" to what God is doing, but if we're open God can help us "see" his love and good works towards us and the work God has for us to do for others.

As Stephanie said in her most recent sermon we must choose the right well from which to drink to obtain the water that fills us, not our human needs, but forever and all time.

Members of these Teams, as do many in our Congregation, help us choose to drink from the right well and see the right manifestations of God's Glory. Indeed Amazing Grace in the midst of fear and uncertainty.

Thanks to ALL. **Bill Thorpe**



### The Session has greatly been enjoying their calls to all LPC members.

The Session and Christian Caring team understand that this time of separation and social distancing leaves a longing for connection and we hope these calls are helping you feel more connected to the church.

We also know that this is a stressful time and you may be in need of groceries or medicine picked up and dropped off at your door, or even trips to the doctor. If you have ANY needs, we want to know and meet your needs! We have people willing to help out in order to make you feel safe and keep you well.

Please contact Chris, Stephanie, or Bill Thorpe if you have any needs or tell the elder who has been in touch with you. ***We will not know you need help if we are not informed.*** We are happy to help, so please tell someone if there is anything we can do for you! Know that our pastors, elders, Christian Caring team, and Stephen Ministers are praying for you!



### Stephen Ministry

Our Stephen Ministers are available for those needing extra support during this time of social distancing and increased anxiety. Stephen Ministers meet with an individual (church member or non-member) for one hour each week in a confidential relationship. If you think you or someone you know could benefit from confidential one-on-one Christian support, please contact Pastor Stephanie or Joann McElravy, our Stephen Leaders. There is no time-length commitment and all one-on-one relationships through the duration of COVID-19 will be offered over the phone or via video chat. We hope you will take advantage of this vital Christian ministry!

Stephen Leader Contact Info:

Stephanie: [PastorStephanieDion@gmail.com](mailto:PastorStephanieDion@gmail.com); (843) 815-6570

Joann McElravy: [jmcelravy@hargray.com](mailto:jmcelravy@hargray.com); (412) 952-3825



Mission opportunities to help the hungry in our community include Bluffton Self Help, Family Promise of Beaufort County (see page 7) and Agape Family Life Center.

Please consider giving generously to one or more of these groups.

### Agape Food Drive

On Tuesday, March 31 we had our first and unfortunately last food drive for Agape Family Life Center in Hardeeville. Following the guidelines from Bluffton Self Help who is no longer accepting food items because of the difficulty of sanitizing, we will no longer be collecting food until it is safe again. However, that does not mean that you cannot help the hungry who come to the Agape Food Bank. We have listed two such opportunities for you to help our neighbors in need. You can help feed the hungry in one of 2 different ways:

Go to Agape's website [www.agapeflc.org](http://www.agapeflc.org) and donate directly for their use to purchase needed food.

Send a check to purchase food cards to LPC with Agape on the memo line.



## *COVID-19 FAMILY RELIEF FUND | Bluffton Self Help*

### *HELPING THOSE AFFECTED BY COVID-19*

COVID-19 has disrupted the lives of Lowcountry neighbors from every walk of life. The crisis could fall heaviest on the most vulnerable members of our community. The need for our services during this national emergency will only grow with reduced or disappearing paychecks and children no longer in school. We are anticipating many hardworking people who have never needed our services before will find themselves at a food distribution for the first time.

To answer this need — and to strengthen our community, Bluffton Self Help has launched the **COVID-19 Family Relief Fund**. This fund will help provide financial aide to local families with mortgage/rental assistance, utilities and food.

Bluffton Self Help is dedicated to serving our community and helping those in need through crisis. As the weeks go on, the hardship on individuals and families will intensify. Many already on the financial edge may be pushed into crisis. With your help, we can get through this unprecedented time, together.

*Now is the time for all of us to come together to support those in need and to contribute to the vitality and health of our community. Please know a donation of any size will make a difference!*

<https://www.blufftonselfhelp.org/donate-form>





As you are aware, most of our local congregations have suspended services and outside activities for the time being. In this time of uncertainty, we have made the decision to secure overnight accommodations for the two families in our Shelter Program at the nearby Candlewood Suites. They will be staying there for at least the next five weeks and possibly longer. Luckily, each room has a fully equipped kitchen and there are complimentary laundry facilities onsite.

This, of course, has placed an unexpected financial burden on our organization as each week will cost approximately \$1,400 for their lodging. We are reaching out to you, our volunteers, supporters, and friends for any assistance that you may be able to provide.

This assistance could come in the form of:

- Gift cards to Walmart (preferably in denominations of \$10 or \$25) which will be used to purchase gas for our family's cars so they can get to work and possibly food.
- Gift cards to Food Lion (preferably in denominations of \$10 or \$25) as the hotel is in walking distance of the store.
- Donations to assist with hotel expenses made either By check and payable to: **Family Promise of Beaufort County**, and sent to 181 Bluffton Road, D101, Bluffton, SC 29910.

OR

- Submitted on our website using a credit card: <https://familypromisebeaufortcounty.org/donate-confirmation/>.

Also, beginning Monday, March 23 and until otherwise communicated, our Day Center will be staffed Monday through Friday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Should you have any questions, please contact us at (843) 815-4211.

From all of us at Family Promise of Beaufort County, many thanks and please stay vigilant about your own wellbeing and that of those around you.

**Thank you so much for remembering all of our neighbors in need.**

**Family Promise of Beaufort County** postponed "A Night of Promise" which was scheduled for April 2nd.

They have secured **Thursday, October 29** as the new date for the event. If you are unable to attend on the rescheduled date, we will be happy to provide a refund at your request.

Please direct any questions to our office at 843-815-4211. Stay safe and healthy!

## Notes of Appreciation

We continue to receive “thank you” notes from the charities that we have sent donations:

**PCUSA Presbyterian Mission** – By participating in the Christmas Joy Offering, your congregation joins other churches to change lives around the world through ministries of compassion, advocacy, development, peacemaking, Christian formation, education and witness. —*Bryce Wiebe, Director of Special Offerings*

**The Literacy Center** – If it weren’t for faithful supporters like you, we wouldn’t exist. Thank you for supplying the funds that we need to change lives of adults and their families when they learn to read, write and speak English. Your donation offers the chance at a better paying job, the skills to be a child’s first teacher, a better quality of life and the opportunity to be a meaningful member of our community. —*Brad Steele, Executive Director*

**Save the Children** – We believe every child deserves a future. In the US and around the world, we give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. Thanks to you, help will be there for the girls and boys who need it most. —*Courtney Nields*

**Memory Matters** – We gratefully accept your gift to further our mission, which is to optimize brain wellness and memory care through educations, programs and support for individuals, caregivers and our Lowcountry community. Our day programs are seeing record numbers of sessions attended, and our community brain health education programs are continually full with a waiting list. —*Ted Orban, Treasurer*

**Bluffton Self Help** – Thank you for providing hope to those who have nowhere to turn. Your generosity has not only helped provide neighbors with essential basic needs but has also created opportunity for our most vulnerable citizens on their path to personal success – an education, life skills, a stable job and a brighter future. —*Kimberly Hall, Executive Director*

**Hopeful Horizons** – We are grateful for your investment in our mission to protect, treat and prevent child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault. Your support helps us provide safety, hope and healing to survivors through evidence-based practices, outreach, prevention and education – all provided free of charge. —*Kristin Dubrowski, CEO*

**All Hands and Hearts** – Your thoughtful and generous gift brings hope and renewal to communities impacted by natural disasters around the world. We are committed to smart response; solving for the long-term, collaborating with local, national and international partners and focusing on the greatest need. —*Erik Dyson, CEO*

**Hilton Head Island Deep Well Project** – Thank you for your generous gift to help power our programs for low-income residents. Many neighbors will have greater stability and a higher quality of life – and that benefits our entire community. Thank you for caring. —*Sandy Gillis, Director*

**Meals on Wheels** – Through generous support like yours Meals-On-Wheels is able to provide nutritious meals to the elderly, injured, ill and disabled individuals in our community regardless of their ability to pay. Thank you for helping us help them. —*Lauri Allenbach, Secretary*

**Lowcountry Legal Volunteers** – Thank you for the financial support of our efforts to ensure that our clients have equal access to justice sends a strong signal to our entire community. Throughout its history, LCLV has made such a difference in the lives of thousands of its clients impacting entire families while strengthening the communities we serve. —*Brad Zervas, Executive Director*

**Bluffton Eats Community Soup Kitchen** – The “Soup Kitchen” is again truly blessed with your gift to help with expenses of food and supplies. We are beginning our 9th year in serving those in need in our community. Deliveries are up to 135 meals each Wednesday and walk-ins and takeout’s average 160+. Blessings to each one. —*Teddy McCracken, Volunteer*

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Jasper County** – Your support plays a significant role in our success of positively shaping the lives of our members and is key to providing the best Club experience possible. The Club offers an inclusive environment where social and emotional safety is provided. Our members receive hope, opportunity and the ability to develop relationships with caring adults.. —*Chris Protz, Executive Director*

## LOWCOUNTRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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We're on the Web!  
[www.lowcountrypres.org](http://www.lowcountrypres.org)

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1	Cameron Fox	20	Wanda Carter
2	Paige Lassen	20	Debbie Paulick
4	Katherine Bleile	21	Ronda Adamson
4	Sarah Bleile	21	Janit Maguire
6	Suzanne Leib	22	Caralynn Scott
6	Amilcar Chavelas	23	Phil Day
7	Sophie Stauffer	23	David Given
8	Jerry Wells	23	Gayle Myers
10	Jim Dove	25	Joann McElravy
11	Emelie Costolo	26	Cal Beltman
11	Marilyn Gearhart	26	Frank Waller
12	Nancy Kozlowski	28	Margie Dixon
15	Kelly Manning	28	Jake Herrin
15	Judy Thorpe	29	Karen Smith
17	Doug Adamson		
17	Ruth Iredale		



## Member Prayer List

Bob Harding	Marilyn Miesner
Stuart Kimble	Dave Tanner
Cindy Marshall	Shirley Wanket