

--- River's Edge Echo ---

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April 2023

Pastor Steve shares story of phrase: 'It's Friday, but Sunday's coming'

"It's Friday, but Sunday's coming." That is a phrase I have often heard, and even said from time to time. During this season of Lent, this line has crossed my mind more than once. The statement is making reference to the sorrow of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Sunday.

On Good Friday, clearly the disciples were dispirited. Their teacher, the one they expected to be the Messiah was arrested and crucified. Imagine the pain Peter must have experienced when he realized rather than being the brave disciple he claimed he would be, he denied even knowing Jesus three times before the rooster crowed. We know that Judas was so overcome with grief after betraying Jesus that he committed suicide. Needless to say, Friday was a bad day for the disciples and other followers of Jesus of Nazareth.

Many of us are going through tough times. While maybe not as bad as the Friday the disciples experience that first Holy Week, it has been a tough season for us. Judas was so overcome with the grief; he did not fight through it. At least Peter and the others tried to work their way through it. On that Friday and Saturday, there was a lot of fear among the faithful.

Then Sunday came! The ladies wake up in the pre-dawn hours and make their way to the tomb. They came with herbs and spices to provide the body of their Lord with a proper burial. But as they approached the tomb, they saw something unimaginable. The tomb was empty! It took them a short time to realize what had happen. Their Lord, as he said before his crucifixion was risen! Death has been defeated. The sorrow that started on Friday was turned into joy on Sunday.

My friends, if it metaphorically feels like Friday to you, hang in there. It is Friday, but Sunday is coming. The joy may take more than a weekend to come, but it will come. I

was a fan of the Rev. Dr. Robert Schuller. He would often say, "Tough times never last. Tough people do." Our Lord told his disciples, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33b ESV) We know that in the end those of us who have put our faith in Jesus Christ, will join him in the victory parade that will take place during the end times. Let us indeed acknowledge it may be Friday, but Sunday is coming.—*Blessings, Pastor Steve*

Sermon Passages for the Month of April

April 2—Matthew 21:1-11 Palm Sunday

April 9—Matthew 28:1-10 Easter Sunday

April 16 and 23 Guest speaker

April 30—1 Peter 2:19-25

Events of Holy Week

This list is not intended to be all inclusive. Some of the dates are up to debate.

Palm Sunday: Triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:29-38); Jesus surveys the temple (Mark 11:1-10); Jesus clears the temple (Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-47) *Matthew and Luke have this event occurring on Sunday, Mark has it occurring on Monday.

Monday: Cursing of the fig tree (Matthew 21:18,19; Mark 11:12-14).

Tuesday: Jesus' authority is questioned (Matthew 21:23-27; Mark 11: 27-33; Luke 20:1-8); Jesus teaches in the temple (Matthew 21:28-23:39; Mark 12:1-44; Luke 20:9 21:4); Jesus is anointed (Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9, Luke 22:1-6).

Wednesday: Judas arranges to betray Jesus (Matthew 26:17-19, Mark 14:10,11; Luke 22:1-6).

Thursday: Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:40-46); Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46 Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:40-46); Jesus arrested and trial before the Sanhedrin—going into Friday morning. (Mt. 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-23:25; John 18:2-19:16).

Good Friday: Trial before Pilate (Matthew 27:2-14; Mark 15:2-5); Trial before Herod (Luke 23:6-12); Back to Pilate (Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15); Crucifixion (Matthew 27:27-56; Mark 15:16-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-30).

Saturday: Bible is silent on what occurred on Saturday.

Easter Sunday: The tomb is empty (Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10); Resurrection appearances (Matthew 28:9-20; Mark 16:9-11; Luke 24:13-53); Jesus appears to the two going to Emmaus (Mark 16:12,13; Luke 24:36-43).—*submitted by Pastor Steve*



Session needs new treasurer, approves vacation, hears finance report

At the March 16th Session meeting an email from Cindy Kessler stated that Kris and she were attending another church. As a result she requested that the Session find another person to take over as treasurer as well as the card ministry that she has been doing. If you are interested in serving in either ministry, please let Pastor Steve or any member of Session know.

Other business included approving a request from Pastor Steve to have vacation time from April 23-25. At an earlier meeting, Session approved a request for study leave time from April 16-22 to attend a conference in Lake Tahoe. Since then, Emily and he received an invitation from his home church to attend a 50th anniversary celebration for the Drive-In service, a ministry that he led for approximately 11 years, that is taking place April 23.

Due to Pastor Steve being out-of-town the third Thursday of the months of April and May (Session's normal meeting day) the meetings were rescheduled for April 13 and May 11, starting at 4:30 p.m.

Sonja Collamer was selected as ruling elder commission to the Presbytery.

The financial report revealed that for the first two months of the year, the church has received \$8,410.88 which is just over

10 percent of the annual budget.

The Mission Committee reported that the church received a thank you note from the national office of PC(USA) for our donation to the Christmas Joy offerings.

Alice Swanson reported that Joe Parrie informed her the sound system he ordered for the church is still pending. As a result of the delay, Joe would understand if we went with another company if that will expedite our receiving a new sound system. Research on possible alternatives was launched.

The next Session meeting will be held April 13 at 4:30.—
submitted by Pastor Steve Niccolls

Choir to resume singing

The first practice of the newly formed choir is Wednesday, March 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Ten people have signed up to sing. They are Jean Bush, Greg Bush, Ken Collamer, Sonja Collamer, Lori Erhart, Carol Jo Jones, Emily Niccolls, Gloria Rakness, Vickie Stolns, and John Wickstrom. Anyone who likes to sing is invited to join us.

Our first performance is at the Psalm Sunday morning worship service.—*submitted by Carlene Sjoden, choir director, accompanist*

Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted... Part Two

Last month, we discussed “righteousness”, what it is and why it is often a problem for the unsaved. Now we want to consider other aspects of the eighth and final beatitude, including what it means to be “persecuted”.

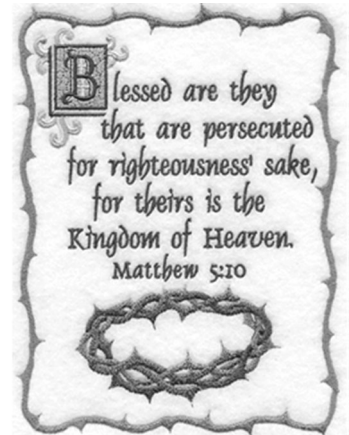
According to Gregory Brown at Bible.org, “... ‘persecuted’ means to ‘pursue’ or ‘chase.’ It can also be translated ‘harass.’” When Jesus went on to say: “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you...” the word “when” can also be translated “whenever,” meaning that believers will not be constantly persecuted, but will experience periods of peace in their lives. Dr. Brown notes that “*even Christ was not persecuted all the time.*”

He goes on to make an interesting observation: ‘Persecuted’ ... could be translated ‘**allow themselves to be persecuted.**’ [Emphasis mine] *What is shocking about these believers is that they are willing to undergo persecution in order to pursue righteousness, preach truth, and to honor God. They are willing to bear their cross for Christ’s sake (cf. Lk. 14:27).*”

Whenever I hear a Christian say that they think one’s ‘religion’ [sic] is a private matter that doesn’t need to be discussed with others, I am suspicious as to the verity of their faith; the Bible tells us that we are not to keep silent about the Gospel – the Good News – of Jesus Christ and His most wonderful gift of salvation for *all* people. Romans 10:14-15 [NKJV] says: “*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”*”

True believers are to preach the “gospel of peace” and “bring glad tidings of good things” whenever and wherever there is opportunity. How will anyone in the unsaved world BE saved unless they hear the Good News? And if bringing the glad tidings of the Gospel means that we will perchance be persecuted, then so be it! We must be willing to *allow* ourselves to be persecuted to bring make believers of unbelievers and to bring sinners into the Kingdom.

But note that the persecution we are likely to suffer must be not only for righteousness’ sake, but for **Jesus’** sake. It is very important to note that in Jesus’ expansion of this beatitude, He said: “*for My sake*”. Oswald Chambers explained: “*It is not suffering for conscience’ sake or for convictions’ sake or because of the ordinary troubles of life, but something other than all that – ‘for My sake.’*” Next month we will conclude the last Beatitude and indeed the entire series. —Virginia Senne



Schedule of Events:

Sunday:

Adult Bible Study—8:15 a.m.
Worship Service—9:30 a.m.
Fellowship—10:30 a.m.

Wednesday:

Prayer Shawl Ministry—9:30 a.m.

Second Thursday of Month
Presbyterian Women—1:30 p.m.

Session meeting 2nd Thursday
of month at 4:30 p.m.

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Officers & Committees

Session—Jean Bush, Ken Collamer,
Herman Strickland, Alice Swanson,
John Wickstrom, Teense Willford.

Treasurer—(VACANT)

Financial Sect.—Anne Wickstrom

Clerk of Session—John Wickstrom

Deacons—Susan Collamer, Carol Jo
Jones, Dani Ellis, Lori Erhart, Vickie
Stolns, Anne Wickstrom.

Session Committees:

Building /Grounds—Ken Collamer

Christian Education—Teense Will-
ford

Congregational Care—all church
members

Endowment—Ken Collamer

Evangelism/Membership—Herman
Strickland

Memorial—Alice Swanson

Nominating—Teense Willford

Worship & Music—John Wickstrom

Leaders:

Adult Bible Study—Sonja Collamer

Memorial Committee—Carol Jo
Jones, Frances Kirby, Vickie Stolns,
Alice Swanson

Prayer Shawl Ministry—Barb John-
son, founder; Christine Wickstrom

Presbyterian Women—Emily Nic-
colls, Frances Kirby

Gather at the Table—Becky Strick-
land, Lori Erhart, Dick Perue, Her-
man Strickland

Prayer Chain—Sherry Parlow: 326-
3369

Corporate Officers—Dick Perue, Ken
Collamer, Cindy Kessler, John Wick-
strom

"River's Edge Echo"—Dick Perue
editor

Services held March 16th for William Leland (Bill) Parlow

Memorial and military services for longtime Saratoga resident and Navy veteran William Leland (Bill) Parlow, 82, were conducted Thursday, March 16, at 3:00 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church of Saratoga.

Following the services, family and friends gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a luncheon provided by the Deacons and to remember Bill.

The Rev. Steven Niccolls presided at the memorial services, followed by military honors conducted by Angus England Post 54 of the American Legion. Cremation has taken place and his cremains will be distributed by family members this summer in Bill's favorite places in the Upper North Platte River valley and surrounding mountains.

Bill lost his year-long battle with a serious illness and passed away in his home March 7, 2023.

Born Aug. 22, 1940, to Leland F. and Miriam (Nesbitt) Parlow in Fremont, Ohio, he grew up and attended school there before joining the Navy in 1959, a career which lasted 27 years. He was married to Sharon Kay Clough July 9, 1983, in Rives Junction, Mich., and spent the next seven years in Hanover, Mich., before moving to Saratoga in 1990.

While in Saratoga he was employed by the Carbon County Sheriff's office for 10 years as well as worked at the Saratoga Community Care Center and Flying J in Rawlins, plus doing other jobs.

Bill was a member and elder of the Saratoga Presbyterian Church and belonged to the American Legion. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and woodworker, plus he and his family spent considerable time camping, hiking, enjoying the area and travelling.

Survivors include his wife, Sherry, two sons, David of Jackson Mich., and Raymond (Su) of Saratoga and daughter Sheila Parlow of Jackson, Mich.; a brother Tom Parlow of Tennessee, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and two brothers.

Casada Funeral Home & Crematory in Rawlins was in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to Sherry Parlow, Box 1804, Saratoga, WY 82331, or friends may visit at 110 Rainbow Ave.—written and submitted by Dick Perue

Local women invited to Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat

In a news release to the "River's Edge Echo" local women are invited to: Join Presbyterian women for their annual retreat to be held at Camp Story, Wyo. from Friday, June 2 at 3:00 p.m. to Sunday, June 4 at noon.

This year's retreat will be centered on "Sabbath". We are fortunate to have Dr. Carol Bechtel as our weekend facilitator. She is the author of the Presbyterian Horizons Magazine study called "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight." Carol is an enticing story teller and a trained teacher (she is professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Mich.) and makes all lessons interesting and easy to understand.

Join us for a few days of wonderful fellowship, thought provoking conversation, a relaxing setting with a rushing river, tall pines, lovely flowers, delicious food, comfortable accommodations, and lots of fun! All you need to do is bring a sleeping bag and pillow for your comfortable bunk, an open heart and willingness to learn. You may need a jacket as this event takes place in early summer and we may have cool weather (you know Wyoming!).

All women are encouraged to attend! Please submit your registration form and payment of \$160 by May 19. The registration form is available in the Narthex or at pbywy.org or Click on the link half way down following the photo of the flier.

You can also view a video of Camp Story and facilities at <https://www.campstory.org/about-us> and click on Rentals/Retreats.

For more info contact Melinda Brazzale, mlbrazzale@gmail.com or at 307-256-0506 talk or text.—submitted by Emily Niccolls and Melinda Brazzale



DEACONS' DOINGS

The Deacons' meeting was after church on Sunday, March 19, 2023. The Deacons extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Bill Parlow. The Deacons served sandwiches and salads after the memorial service on Thursday, March 16. We thank all of the congregation members who helped the Deacons with salads, set up and clean up. The leftover food was donated to coffee fellowship on the following Sunday, hosted by the Niccolls family. We are glad that those of you attending church could enjoy the meal.

Other business the Deacons discussed was using the Community Resource Guide picked up by Pastor Steve at the Department of Family Services office. Any entity that wants to be added to the guide, please let Susan Collamer know and she will contact Angie at the DFS office. Angie offered to do all of the updating of the guide. It provides services around Carbon County for such information as food assistance, senior centers, transportation, home health care, low income housing, utility assistance etc.

Unfortunately the Deacons were going to be shorthanded on the Lenten Soup Luncheon so it was decided to give the luncheon to Gather at the Table. Sadly they found themselves in the same boat and decided to cancel the soup luncheon in April. The Deacons will hopefully have more on hand to put on a fall/winter soup luncheon that everyone will get to enjoy later this year. The Deacons will have another Donut Sunday at the end of April.

The Deacons' meeting in April has been moved from Easter to the following Sunday on April 16.

We wish all of you a Happy Easter!—submitted by Susan Collamer and Anne Wickstrom

Prayer Chain No. is 326-3369

Adult Bible Study

Our group of seekers meets Sunday mornings at 8:15 to read and discuss the Bible. Last week we completed the Book of Esther and how she used the tools available to her to save the Jews from the persecution of her husband, King Xerxes. Even though God is not mentioned in this Book, his presence in the story permeates the narrative. We enjoyed the study and its lessons a lot.

We will begin the Gospel of Matthew this week. We are looking forward to this account of Jesus' life and ministry. Written by Matthew sometime between 50 A.D. and 70 A.D., he focuses on telling his Jewish readers how Jesus is clearly the Messiah as fore-told in the Old Testament.

You are invited to join us each Sunday morning at 8:15 in the Fellowship Hall, and bring your voice and viewpoint to the conversation.—submitted by Sonja Collamer, Adult Bible Study member

Bad weather postpones meals, soup lunches

Adverse weather conditions and lack of volunteers has forced the postponement of two upcoming church events, according to a news release from the sponsoring committee.

Gather at the Table free meals have been postponed until committee members can get in from the snowed-in ranch, while the "Soups of Easter" set for April have been rescheduled for May. See next month's "Echo".—DP

Ways to contact Pastor Steve

Normal drop-in office hours at Church are

Monday-Thursday 8:00 - 12:00

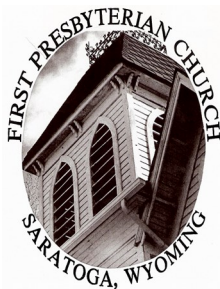
Meetings and Appointments at Any Time

Office phone is 326-5337, Home phone 326-3163,

Cell phone (510) 825-3721

sronicoll@att.net* or *1pcsaratoga@union-tel.com

Or leave note on white board on office door or on desk



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