April 10, 2025



Piedmont Episcopal Church

214 Church Street Madison, Va 22727

The Rev. Becki Casey Priest-in-Charge

April 13, 2025 - 11 a.m. Worship Service

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you can find a home here.
Our doors and hearts are wide open!

Readings for April 13, 2025 - Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms

Luke 19: 28-40

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14-23:56 Psalm 31:9-16

Lay Servers - April 13, 2025

Vestry Person	Sharon Hicks
Usher	
Acolyte	_
Children's Church	Resumes after Easter
Lector	Eve Bargmann
Intercessor	Karen Czar

LEM	Sharon Hicks
Altar Care	Vickie Parker
Fellowship	Potluck

WEEKLY at PIEDMONT CHURCH

Tuesday

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study with Rev. Brad Jackson

Wednesday

4 p.m. Bible Study with Norris John

5:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Dinner

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice with Rev. Brad Jackson

Friday

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer with Bill Birkhofer

9:45 a.m. Understanding the Bible - Rev. Becki (Will not meet 4/18)

Minister's Musings

Our Example

Jesus, after washing his disciples' feet, stated,
"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to
wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also
should do just as I have done to you"

John 13:14-15

Maundy Thursday is the day in the church's year when we celebrate The Last Supper, before Jesus' betrayal and death. As far back as the fourth century, Christians have been commemorating this event with elaborate ceremonies. It is a big deal! It is the institution of The New Commandment to love that Jesus demonstrated through his own humility.

Unlike life in twenty-first century America, foot washing in first century Palestine was normal. We live in a world of concrete and asphalt. For those on the farm, we wear socks and boots to protect ourselves from the grime. People of Jesus' day wore sandals and trod dirt roads they shared with animals, who indiscriminately left their droppings behind. Additionally, people of Jesus' day ate their meals while reclining with both food and feet in close proximity. Foot washing was an act of hospitality, refreshment, and just plain necessary. The

task itself was accomplished by servants or slaves. It was a menial task, a yucky one at that. Peers would certainly NOT be caring for or cleaning one another's bodies in a social setting!

Jesus' choice to wash his disciples' feet was one, like so many of the things Jesus did, that defied social convention. Unlike a task performed by slaves, to have one's feet washed by a friend and teacher transformed a hygienic routine into something intimate and unsettling. When Jesus did this, he was making an intentional statement about the way our love for one another ought to defy convention, position us as servants, and unsettle accepted norms.

Following the example of our Savior, The Prayer Book makes provision for both a eucharist and the ritual practice of foot washing during the Maundy Thursday service. Yikes! Just like the disciples in the first century, our reaction to the concept of baring our feet before others or touching another person's feet is unnerving. Two thousand years later, the act remains revolutionary and uncomfortable. I think that was Jesus' point. (And we don't even have to wrestle with the first century ick of scrubbing manure out from between crusty toes!)

This year we will be heeding the wisdom of our forebearers and providing the opportunity to follow Jesus' example during our joint Maundy Thursday service. Like all Jesus' invitations, this is not a requirement for participation in the service, but it will be on offer. Those who are willing, will bend themselves as servants before another, to both wash feet and have their own feet washed by a member of our fellowship. In awkward humility, we will take a final Lenten opportunity to trust God's transformation of our hearts as we follow Jesus' example of love.

-Rev. Becki



Prayer List

We offer prayers for those who are dealing with health issues and other ongoing needs: Mac Barber, Bernadette Blanding, Mike Cashman, David Cronk, Janice Edwards, Joanie Edwards, Jill F., Alfred Goossens, Vera Griffin, Brad and Lydia Hansen, Ginger Hawkins, Zoe Hubbard, Shelby Jean Hull, Kim, Ryan Mahanes, Aaron Milligan, Hannah Moyer, Mary Moyer, Carol Nowak,

Carolyn O'Brien, Robert, Michael Rider, Pat Roberts, Steve Sanford, Ann Skidmore, Sarah, Carolyn Stanley, Joe Stanley, Kathryn Thomas, Robert Ulrich and Sylvia Vior.

*If you wish to add or remove someone from the Parish Prayer list please send an email to Rev. Becki Casey @ beckisafeinhishands@gmail.com by Wednesday to ensure that it gets into the bulletin and weekly messenger.

Cycle of Prayer

Please join us in praying for our larger Church communities. This week in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we lift up The Church of England. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Grace in Alexandria and St. Luke's Wellington in Alexandria.



Palm Sunday Processional

This Sunday, April 13th, is Palm Sunday! We will gather with our friends from United Methodist in the county parking lot below Piedmont to collect our palms and pussy willows before processing down the street and into the sanctuary for worship. Come ready to join us for the festivities as we enter Holy Week!!

What's With the Palms?

On Sunday we will all wave palm branches as we process our way along the street, singing Hosanna, and then into church. Palm branches were a significant part of The Triumphal Entry, when Jesus made his way into Jerusalem, and the crowds hailed him as their king. The crowds waved palm branches to honor Jesus because palms were a sign of military and religious victory. Days later that same crowd used their raised voices to accuse Jesus and send him to his

death. Anglicans celebrate the vacant cross as a symbol of Christ's triumph over sin and the power of the grave. One fun way we link Thursday to Sunday is by taking our palm branch and folding them into the shape of a cross. If you would like to shape your palm, here are two resources to help you do it. If you would like the pdf version, click here. If you would like a YouTube instructional video, click here. There will also be handouts available at the church on Sunday.

So WHY Pussy Willows?

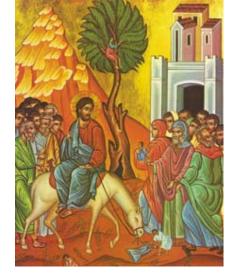
From ancient times, palm branches were symbols of victory and triumph, and were used by Romans in celebration of both military as well as civic and sporting events. Thus, when Jesus arrived the people took branches of palms and went out to greet him. In the New Testament, palm branches became a symbol of martyrdom, meaning victory over death.

The Feast of Palm Sunday dates back to at least the third century, having been celebrated first in Jerusalem and quickly spreading to all of the churches in the East, reaching Constantinople by the fifth century. It was also known as Flowery Sunday, since in and near Constantinople spring flowers (lilac, olive, or elder) were distributed to the faithful. Between the sixth and seventh centuries the feast spread to the western church. In the West, the palms are kept for an entire year, then burned, with the ashes spread on the foreheads of the faithful on Ash Wednesday as a sign of penance.

In many countries of Europe the Feast is known as Willow Sunday or Pussy Willow Sunday. Since palms do not grow in northern climates and may not be available, pussy willows, being the first flower to blossom in Spring, were often distributed. Depending on local customs, churches today may distribute palms, pussy willows, spring flowers, or a combination.

Pussy Willows are a tradition in some churches and it was in the church I grew up in. I wanted to share my childhood tradition with my new church. These Pussy Willows are from our Pussy Willow tree that I planted from a Blessed Willow Branch from my childhood church. I hope you enjoy them.

-Karen Czar



Easter Lilies

It's time to order Easter Lilies for our altar, for Easter Sunday! Order forms will be available this Sunday. Cash payments can be placed in the offering, marked with your name "for Easter lilies". Checks can be made out to Piedmont Church with a notation in the memo "for Easter Lilies". If you would like to honor someone, please put the name in the comment section of the order form and return forms to Vickie Parker. Thank you to those that have placed an order. Orders can be placed through Palm Sunday!



Easter Brunch Sign up and Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday, we will have a brunch at 10 am, in the parish house, before our 11 am worship. There will be a sign-up to assist in planning. Let us know if you plan to attend and how many will be attending. Please join us! After our Easter service there will be an outdoor egg hunt for the the children. We ask that all children **bring a basket** to collect their eggs!



Upcoming Schedule of Events

April 13th- Palm Sunday

April 17th - Maundy Thursday Joint service at Grace 7PM

April 18th - Noon Good Friday Liturgy at Grace, 6-7PM Stations of the Cross at Piedmont

April 19th - 6PM-6AM Easter Vigil

April 20th Easter Sunday - 7AM Sunrise Service at the Winslow Barn in Stanardsville, 9AM Easter Service at Grace, 10AM Potluck breakfast at Piedmont, 11AM Easter Service at Piedmont and egg hunt



Annual Review of Piedmont and Trace Church Covenant Many of you may have heard us speak about this "Covenant" that was created last year between Grace and Piedmont Church. But what's it all about? Why was it greated? What's the purpose of it? Who's idea was it? Just a few questions you may have!

WINSLOW'S BARN 7:00 AM The Rev. Shirley Smith Graham Transitional Minister, from the Virginia Episcopal Diocese; worked with Grace and Piedmont last spring, as we began our search for a new priest-in-charge. With her assistance, both church vestries worked to create a document. It consists of three main sections: administrative, financial and spiritual. And contains both churches mission statements. While describing our relationship with Grace church, it serves as a guide should any conflict arise between us. Both Grace and Piedmont agreed to a yearly review of it.

Copies of the covenant have been placed on the bulletin boards in the sanctuary and the parish house. If anyone would like to review it. please feel free to pick up a copy. Any questions can be directed to Rev. Becki or any member of the vestry.

-Sharon Hicks



As we come to the end of the Lenten season, we will soon enjoy flowers on our altar. Thanks to those who have already selected dates for these gifts. There are only four pairs of Sundays remaining for making a gift of altar flowers in 2025. These available dates are May 18- 25, July 27-August 3, August 24-31, and October 26-November 2. Please make a note on the bulletin board in the sanctuary and ask any altar guild member if you have questions.



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