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Pastor Email: scott_prouty@hotmail.com

Church Website: fpcrwf.org

Pastor: Rev. Scott Prouty

Administrative Assistant: Christina Halvorson

Custodian: Markeela Toren

Organist: Elaine Hagen

Choir Director: Peggy Dolezal

Clerk of Session: Sonya Alexander

Treasurers: Richard Aakre/Bob Alexander

Deacon Moderator: Leon King

Vice Moderator:

Youth Club Team: Ann Tiffany, Connie Bentson

Presbyterian 4 Hs Team

(Holiness, Head, Heart & Hands):

Dan & Shari Fuhr, Kyle & Stacie Hicks,
Keegan & Shellie Mammen, Tony & Molly Miller, Rev. Scott Prouty

Confirmation Teacher: Rev. Scott Prouty

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 *Sunday School *Choir Practice *Worship -HC *Packing Weekend Food Bags	4 *Pastor: Rotary Meeting	5 *Pastor: Presbytery Meeting in Spicer	6 *Bible Study *Picemakers *Lenten Service *Youth Club *Confirmation *4Hs	7 *Pastor: Visits	8 *Pastor: Dollars for Scholars Meeting	9
10 *Sunday School *Choir Practice *Palm Sunday Worship-Baptism	11 *Pastor: Rotary Board Meeting *Session Meeting	12	13 *Bible Study *Youth Club *Confirmation *4Hs	14 *Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm	15 *Community Good Friday Service HERE at 12:05 pm	16
17 Chimes Deadline *Easter Worship *Packing Weekend Food Bags	18	19 Ruby's Pantry	20 *Picemakers *Youth Club *4Hs	21	22	23
24 *Sunday School *Choir Practice *Worship - Janet Ellingworth	25	26 *Scott: Visits	27 *Bible Study *Youth Club *Confirmation *4Hs	28	29	30

Scott will be on vacation
April 18-24

Rummage Sale!
April 28-30

We're looking for a few good people to be out next "Imagination Angel". Will you donate, so a child in our area can receive a story book each month until they enter Kindergarten? It only takes \$30 to bless a child for one year with the gift of reading. You can mail donations to "Imagination Library - FPC", PO Box 444, RWF, MN or give online at <https://donate.imaginationlibrary.com/>
(Make sure to designate Redwood Area to receive your donation).

Helping Out Where Needed!

"GCM welcomes our first work group of the year this week. The group from Justice For All in Rock Valley Iowa, led by Team Leader Nick LeLoux, **(and including our very own Marlys Mathiowetz)** will be helping with projects on the campus of Anville Institute as well as housing repairs in the community. Justice For All (JFA) has been a partner of GCM for over 20 years. We appreciate the support of JFA and their commitment to Jackson County over the years." (Source: Grace Covenant Ministries Formerly Jackson County Ministries Facebook Page)



Volunteers Needed

Vicki's Camp N Country Jam coming up in July is looking for volunteers to help during this event. Give us a call, 507-640-1585 or go look us up at janet@vccjam.com. Volunteers are given free tickets for this event to attend these concerts.



Eager little helpers setting up for Ash Wednesday Service.

Pastor's Visitation Schedule

Here is the pastor's home and nursing home visitation schedule for the months of March and April. If the pastor is unable to meet due to unforeseen circumstances, you will be notified. **If you are unable to meet at the designated time, please let the pastor know as soon as possible** so other arrangements may be made. You may call his home phone at 627-5486 or cell phone at 640-1369. Thank you!

April

On April 7, Pastor Scott takes Holy Communion to:

Ardis Alexander at 9:00 am

Pastor Scott Visits:

Barb Brown at 9:30 am

Pastor Scott takes Holy Communion to:

Bunny Nolting & Dorothy Symes at 11:00 am

Bob Nolting at 2:00 pm

Joyce McKay at 2:30 pm

Millie Bunting at 3:00 pm

John & Sue Tiffany at 3:45 pm

On April 26, Pastor Scott takes Holy Communion to:

Rosemary Bennett at 9:30 pm

Pastor Scott Visits:

Laura Kohler at 11:00 am

Pastor Scott takes Holy Communion to:

Sally Dording at 2:00 pm

Pastor Scott Visits:

Ralph Revier at 3:00 pm

Janean McKay at 4:00 pm

May

On May 3, Pastor Scott Visits:

Ardis Alexander at 9:30 am

Bunny Nolting & Dorothy Symes at 10:30 am

John & Sue Tiffany at 2:00 pm

Bob Nolting at 3:30 pm

Joyce McKay at 4:00 pm

Millie Bunting at 4:30 pm

On May 10, Pastor Scott Visits:

Julie Fiala at 9:00 am

Dale & Sandy Starr at 11:00 am

Mark & Dorie Ojat at 2:00 pm

Lee & Diane Davis at 3:00 pm

Marlys Mathiowetz at 4:00 pm

On May 17, Pastor Scott Visits:

Judy Curtis at 9:00 am

Laura Kohler at 10:00 am

Deb & Gerry Hess at 11:00 am

Gerry Patten at 2:00 pm

Leon & Sharon King at 3:30 pm

On May 24, Pastor Scott Visits:

Rosemary Bennett at 9:30 am

Dally Dording at 2:00 pm

Ralph Revier at 3:00 pm

Janean McKay at 4:00 pm

April Ushers: Head Usher Scott Kohler Laura Kohler, Bob Kaupang, Nancy Miller, Shane & JoAnne Carroll, Nick & Katherine Brozek, Don & Lorrie Quinn

May Ushers: Head Usher: Gary Hindt, Greg Dording, Stephen Dording, Kim McKay, Tom & Barb Stough, Julie Rienstra, Brady Stough, Shawn Corder, Leann Heimer

April Communion Servers: Ruling Elder Nick Brozek, San Alexander, Shari Fuhr, Katherine Brozek, Nancy Miller, Laura Kohler, Scott Kohler

May Communion Servers: Ruling Elder Michael Joldersma, Shawn Corder, Julie Rienstra, Karen Speros, Rhonda Joldersma, Dan Tiffany, Sonya Alexander

Please NOTE ALL of the lists on this page... Birthdays, Ushers, Greeters & Communion Servers...

If you (or a family member) would like to be removed from any of these, let the church office know! Thank you!

April Greeters

Deacon of the Month: Shari Fuhr
4/3: Merlin Goudy/Kim McKay
4/10: Larry & Sue Wessels/Don & Lorrie Quinn
4/17: Shelby Enright/Julie Rienstra
4/24: Nikki VanderLinden/Brenda Johnson

May Greeters

Deacon of the Month: Dan Tiffany
5/1: Kyle & Stacie Hicks/Brent Prouty
5/8: Ryan Rohik/Rob & Jeanne Palmer
5/15: Bob & Sonya Alexander/Dan & Maria Alexander
5/22: Bruce & Ann Tiffany/Robert & Lori Rebstock
5/29: Dale & Sandy Starr/Michelle & Scott Johanneck

Elders

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Nancy Miller	Sonya Alexander	Dave Danielson
Michael Joldersma	Deb Hess	Nick Brozek
Drew Osborne	Molly Miller	Nathan Stephens

Board of Deacons

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Karen Speros	Dan Tiffany	Scott Goodyear
Kathy Peterson	Julie Fiala	Shair Fuhr
Rhonda Joldersma		Dan Alexander
Katherine Brozek		Laura Kohler
Leon King		

April Birthdays

3rd - Gerry Patten, Judy Curtis
5th - Bunny Nolting, Diane Davis
7th - Chip Nearing,
Amanda Milhausen
9th - Marilyn Fuhr
11th - Bob Rebstock, Kay Jensen,
Jenny Jansen
12th - Grant Norgaard
16th - Matt Tiffany, Mike Bentson
17th - Cassi Juell
19th - Elizabeth Prouty
20th - Don Dagner, Carter Wittman
21st - Leon King
22nd - Faith Bruns
24th - Joyce McKay
27th - Logan Garman
28th - Nathan Jacobson
29th - Paige Paplow, Kathy Peterson,
Eliza Bentson

Anniveraries

7th - Pete & Dody Fuhr
13th - Michael & Rhonda Joldersma
25th - Butch & Faythe Amberg
30th - Richard & Diane Aakre

Session Meeting: March 14, 2022

- Opened with prayer.
- Present: Pastor Scott Prouty, Elders Michael Joldersma, Sonya Alexander, Dave Danielson, Nancy Miller. Excused/Absent: Elders Drew Osborne, Deb Hess, Molly Miller, Nick Brozek, and Nathan Stephens.
- Pastor Scott led training from the Directory of Worship in the Book of Order.
- One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken on Easter Sunday.
- Defibrillator pads have expired and will be replaced.
- Weekly bible study is being held on Wednesday mornings at 7am.
- Good Friday service will be held at our church, Good Friday at 12:05pm.
- Maunday Thursday service will be held in the evening.
- Weekend Backpack program needs a leader/organizer.
- Church rummage sale will be held April 28-30.
- Approved baptism of Grayson, son of Anika Martin.
- Approved use of the church by the Tiffany family on August 6.
- Closed with prayer.

The Holy Baptisms of:

Henry Merle Steinkraus & Ava Ann Steinkraus,
Children of Jason & Tara Steinkraus

Cade Elwood Morris & Claire Marie Morris,
Children of Matthew & Jacqueline Morris



New Members:
Ralph Revier & Linda Boyer

This article was written by author Susan E. Richardson. I found it very interesting. I am hope you enjoy it and possibly learn something new about Easter. - Pastor Scott Prouty

What is Easter?

Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb on the third day after his crucifixion. Easter is the fulfilled prophecy of the Messiah who would be persecuted, die for our sins, and rise on the third day. Remembering the resurrection of Jesus is a way to renew daily hope that we have victory over sin. According to the New Testament, Easter is three days after the death of Jesus on the cross.

Easter follows a period of fasting called Lent, in which many churches set aside time for repentance and remembrance. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Good Friday, the day of Jesus' crucifixion. The 40-day period was established by Pope Gregory 1 using the 40-day pattern of Israel, Moses, Elijah, and Jesus' time in the wilderness.

The week leading up to Easter is called The Holy Week, or "Passion Week", and includes Palm Sunday (the day Jesus entered Jerusalem and was celebrated), Maundy Thursday (the "Last Supper" where Jesus met with his disciples to observe Passover), and Good Friday (when Jesus would be crucified on the cross).

Easter is a very significant date within Christianity and is the foundation of the Christian faith. Jesus, the Son of God, fulfilled prophecy and through his death, has given the gift of eternal life in heaven to those who believe in his death and resurrection. Read the entire Biblical account of Resurrection Day in Matthew 28, Mark 16, and Luke 24.

Origin of Easter and First Celebrated

The earliest Christians celebrated the resurrection on the fourteenth of Nisan (our March-April), the date of the Jewish Passover. Jewish days were reckoned from evening to evening, so Jesus had celebrated His Last Supper the evening of the Passover and was crucified the day of the Passover. The origin of Easter started with early Christians celebrating the Passover worshiped Jesus as the Paschal Lamb and Redeemer.

The origin of some of the Gentile Christians began celebrating Easter in the nearest Sunday to the Passover since Jesus actually arose on a Sunday. This especially became the case in the western part of the Roman Empire. In Rome itself, different congregations celebrated Easter on different days!

Many felt that the date should continue to be based on the timing of the Resurrection during Passover. Once Jewish leaders determined the date of Passover each year, Christian leaders could set the date for Easter by figuring three days after Passover. Following this schedule would have meant that Easter would be a different day of the week each year, only falling on a Sunday once in a while.

Others believed since the Lord rose on a Sunday and this day had been set aside as the Lord's Day, this was the only possible day to celebrate His resurrection. As Christianity drew away from Judaism, some were reluctant to base the Christian celebration on the Jewish calendar.

Constantine wanted Christianity to be totally separated from Judaism and did not want Easter to be celebrated on the Jewish Passover. The Council of Nicea accordingly required the feast of the resurrection to be celebrated on a Sunday and never on the Jewish Passover. Easter was to be the Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. Since the date of the vernal equinox changed from year to year, calculating the proper date can be difficult. This is still the method used to determine Easter today, which is why some years we have Easter earlier than other years.

When is Easter this Year?

Easter falls on Sunday, April 17, 2022. Easter is celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon, the Pachschal full moon, after the vernal equinox. Since the date of the vernal equinox changed from year to year, calculating the proper date can be difficult. This is still the method used to determine Easter today, which is why some years we have Easter earlier than other years.

- April 9, 2023
- March 31, 2024
- April 20, 2025
- April 5, 2026

What Does Easter mean?

The origin of the word *easter* isn't certain. The Venerable Bede, an eighth-century monk, and scholar suggested that the word may have come from the Anglo-Saxon *Eostre* or *Eastre* – a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility. Recent scholars haven't been able to find any reference to the goddess Bede mentioned and consider the theory discredited.

Another possibility is the Norse *eostur*, *eastur*, or *ostara*, which meant “the season of the growing sun” or “the season of new birth.” The word *east* comes from the same roots. In this case, *easter* would be linked to the changing of the season.

A more recent and complex explanation comes from the Christian background of Easter rather than the pagan. The early Latin name for the week of Easter was *hebdomada alba* or “white week,” while the Sunday after Easter day was called *dominica in albis* from the white robes of those who had been newly baptized. The word *alba* is Latin both for *white* and *dawn*. People speaking Old High German made a mistake in their translation and used a plural word for *dawn*, *ostarun*, instead of a plural for white. From *ostarun* we get the German *Ostern* and the English *Easter*.

How Does Easter Connect to Passover?

The day before his crucifixion, Jesus observed Passover with his disciples. This event is known as the Last Supper. Passover is the time that Jews remembered their freedom and exodus from Egypt. During this Passover feast, Jesus told his disciples that the bread symbolizes his body that would be broken and the wine, his blood, which would be poured out for the forgiveness of sins ([Matthew 26:17-30](#)). The Last Supper is remembered today in churches and religious services through the act of taking Holy Communion and sharing bread and wine to remember the sacrifice of Jesus.

Jesus was arrested after the Passover meal while he was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was then taken before the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, for trial.

Christian and Pagan Traditions

There are many traditions that surround the entire Lent season, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday. Generally observed traditions across the globe include the Easter bunny, colored eggs, gift baskets, and flowers. We will dive into specific traditions below in more detail, but here are a few more interesting traditions from around the world:

- In Australia, bunnies are considered pests that ruin crops and land. Aussies celebrate with their native marsupial, the Bibby, which has large ears and a more pointy nose.
- In Poland on Easter Monday, boys try to soak people with buckets of water. This tradition has its roots in the baptism of Polich Prince Mieszko on Easter Monday in 996.
- In Greece, the morning of Holy Saturday is known as the annual "pot throwing" where residents throw pots out of windows. It is a tradition used to mark the beginning of spring and new crops being gathered in new pots.
- In Europe, there are large bonfires called Easter Fires that are lit on Easter Sunday into Monday. The Saxon origin is that the fires will chase away winter and Easter will bring spring.

Origin and History of the Easter Bunny

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of Easter? As a Christian, the first image might be the cross or the empty tomb. For the general public, a blitz of media images and merchandise on store shelves makes it more likely that the Easter Bunny comes to mind. So how did a rabbit distributing eggs become a part of Easter?

There are several reasons for the rabbit, or hare, to be associated with Easter, all of which come through pagan celebrations or beliefs. The most obvious is the hare's fertility. Easter comes during spring and celebrates new life. The Christian meaning of new life through Christ and a general emphasis on new life are different, but the two gradually merged. Any animals – like the hare – that produced many offspring were easy to include. The hare is also an ancient symbol for the moon. The date of Easter depends on the moon. This may have helped the hare to be absorbed into Easter celebrations.

The hare or rabbit's burrow helped the animal's adoption as part of Easter celebrations. Believers saw the rabbit coming out of its underground home as a symbol for Jesus coming out of the tomb. Perhaps this was another case of taking a pre-existing symbol and giving it a Christian meaning.

The Easter hare came to America with German immigrants, and the hare's role passed to the common American rabbit. Originally children made nests for the rabbit in hats, bonnets, or fancy paper boxes, rather than the baskets of today. Once the children finished their nests, they put them in a secluded spot to keep from frightening the shy rabbit. The appealing nests full of colored eggs probably helped the customs to spread.

Back in Southern Germany, the first pastry and candy Easter bunnies became popular at the beginning of the nineteenth century. This custom also crossed the Atlantic, and children still eat candy rabbits – particularly chocolate ones – at Easter.

Origin and History of Easter Eggs

Next to the Easter bunny, the most familiar symbol is the Easter egg. Like others, the egg has a long pre-Christian history. Again there's no certainty as to why it became associated with Easter.

Many Ancient cultures viewed eggs as a symbol of life. Hindus, Egyptians, Persians, and Phoenicians believed the world begun with an enormous egg. The Persians, Greeks, and Chinese gave gifts of eggs during spring festivals in celebration of new life all around them. Other sources say people ate dyed eggs at spring festivals in Egypt, Persia, Greece, and Rome. In ancient Druid lore, the eggs of serpents were sacred and stood for life. Early Christians looked at the connection eggs had to life and decided eggs could be a part of their celebration of Christ's resurrection. In addition, in some areas, eggs were forbidden during Lent; therefore, they were a delicacy at Easter. Since many of the earlier customs were Eastern in origin, some speculate that early missionaries or knights of the Crusade may have been responsible for bringing the tradition to the West. In the fourth century, people presented eggs in church to be blessed and sprinkled with holy water. By the twelfth century, the *Benedictio Ovorum* had been introduced authorizing the special use of eggs on the holy days of Easter. The timing of this blessing would uphold the idea that Crusaders may have brought the tradition back. Even though eggs had been used previously, the Crusaders may have made the custom more popular and widespread.

In 1290, Edward I of England recorded a purchase of 450 eggs to be colored or covered with gold leaf. He then gave the eggs to members of the royal household.

Once the custom became accepted, new traditions began to grow up around it. Eggs were dyed red for joy and in memory of Christ's blood. Egg rolling contests came to America from England, possibly as a reminder of the stone being rolled away.

What about the familiar Easter Egg hunt? One source suggested that it grew out of the tradition of German children searching for hidden pretzels during the Easter season. Since children were hiding nests for the Easter Bunny to fill with eggs at the same time they were hunting pretzels, it was only a small leap to begin hiding eggs instead.

Meaning of the Easter Lamb

Of all Easter symbols, the lamb is probably the most strongly Christian. Other than the fact that lambs are young animals born in springtime, it has no strong ties to pagan traditions.

The lamb comes from the Jewish Passover, where each family killed a lamb as a sacrifice. When Christ became the Passover Lamb for everyone, the lamb became a symbol for His sacrifice.

John 1:29 - "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

1 Peter 1:18-21 - "*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.*"

New Clothes at Easter

New clothes have long been associated with the idea of newness and a fresh beginning. The familiar custom of having new clothes for Easter probably began with early Christians wearing new white robes for baptism during Easter Vigil services. Later, the custom expanded to everyone wearing new clothes in celebration of his or her new life in Christ.

Sunrise Services

The familiar sunrise service is a relatively new addition to Easter. A group of young Moravian men in Hernhut, Saxony held the first recorded sunrise service in 1732. They went to their cemetery called God's Acre at sunrise to worship in memory of the women who went to the tomb early on the first Easter morning and discovered it empty. Moravian immigrants brought the custom to America, with the first service in the United States held in 1743.

Easter Lilies

The Easter lily is another new addition to Easter celebrations. Throughout the years, painters and sculptors used the white Madonna lily to symbolize purity and innocence, frequently referring to Mary. This lily doesn't force well, so nurseries couldn't get the flower to bloom in time for Easter. In the 1880s, Mrs. Thomas Sargent brought Bermuda lily bulbs back to Philadelphia. A local nurseryman, William Harris, saw the lilies and introduced them to the trade. A more practical consideration was that they were easy to force into bloom in time for the Easter season. From there, the Bermuda lily, now the familiar Easter lily, spread throughout the country.

Easter is an important holiday, if not the most significant event in the Christian religion. May God bless you this Easter and always!

