

# The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



## Easter-High



by Jim McCarthy

## Expectations

Vol. CXXXIV, Edition 13

April 5, 2026

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**The Lord  
is good  
to those  
who wait  
for him,  
to the soul  
who seeks him.**

Lamentations 3:25

For many, Easter is a highlight in the annual life cycle of a church family. We mark our calendars months in advance. Our anticipation brightens and warms with the Spring. We clear our schedules of competing commitments and bend our lives around worship on Easter Sunday (many can count on one hand the times they've missed church on Easter). We eagerly invite our friends and family members to church and enjoy special times of feasting and fellowship afterwards. We don the very best of our Sunday best and arrive at church early to get a good seat. From the call to worship to the benediction, we are all in. We pray with zeal. We sing loudly in triumphant joy. We pay extra careful attention to the reading and preaching of God's word. We drink deeply, eagerly, of the good news that Christ conquered cross and grave to save us, body and soul, from our sins. We leave feeling especially satisfied and blessed by the powerful presence of God in our worship.

What accounts for this "Easter extra"? Well, I suspect it isn't the liturgy or order of worship, which (at least in our church) is the same each Lord's Day. The music and instrumentation are also the same. And the same preacher fills the pulpit. On paper, Easter Sunday is no different than any other Lord's Day. But if the service is the same, why does Easter feel so special?

In a word, it's about *expectancy*.

In Lamentations 3:25, God gives a precious promise to his people saying, "The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him." Thank God that he is not only good to those who wait for him and seek him. He seeks and saves the

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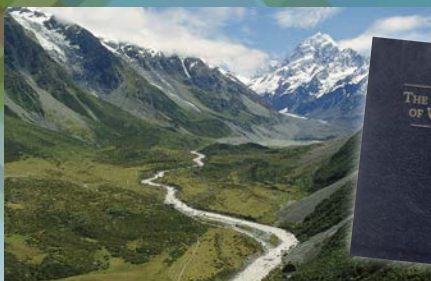


On February 12, Marcus Laughter had a good time with his old buddy Jeff. They discovered a new amazing pizza place that's essentially a hole in the wall called Brooklyn Pizza. February 12 was a tough day for Jeff . As many know, Jeff was a minister in the Presbyterian Church before having a stroke back in 2020. Ministers have large libraries, and Jeff was no different. But Jeff made a critical and selfless decision to go through his library and donate very many of his precious volumes to young ministers studying at the Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte. Hats off to you, Jeff for this selfless gift.



On March 24, Rev. Jeff Early had a great day trip to Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte with Rev. Jeff Windt to drop off a ton of free books for the students and catch lunch with some old friends and professors.





*A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions*

The prayers in this book are drawn from the largely forgotten deposit of Puritan spiritual exercises, meditations, and aspirations. They testify to the richness and colour of evangelical thought and language that animated vital piety in an important stream of English religious life. ~Arthur Bennett

## Blessed LORD Jesus,

No human mind could conceive or invent the gospel.

Acting in eternal grace, thou art both its

messenger and its message,

lived out on earth through infinite compassion,

applying thy life to insult, injury, death,

that I might be redeemed, ransomed, freed.

Blessed be thou, O Father, for contriving this way,

Eternal thanks to thee, O Lamb of God,

for opening this way,

Praise everlasting to thee, O Holy Spirit,

for applying this way to my heart.

Glorious Trinity, impress the gospel on my soul,

until its virtue diffuses every faculty;

Let it be heard, acknowledged, professed, felt.

O unite me to thyself with inseparable bonds,

that nothing may ever draw me back from thee,

my Lord, my Saviour.



at the corner of

*River & Rhett*



## ARC to Park Project Update

We're excited to share that the ARC to Park project continues to move forward smoothly and remains largely on schedule!

All curbing in the parking lot is now complete, along with all sidewalks in the lot and down O'Neal Street. The majority of the landscaping has also been finished.

Due to the heavy rainfall we've experienced over the last few weeks, we are currently waiting for the subgrade to dry sufficiently before the parking lot can be paved. Lord willing, the lot will be paved and ready in time for Easter Sunday!

Duke Energy still needs to install the new parking lot lighting, and the curbing and sidewalk work along Academy Street is pending our receipt of the SCDOT encroachment permit. That portion of the project will likely take several more weeks.

We anticipate the entire project will be completed by May. Thank you for your patience.



February 2



March 26

# APRIL

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## *Birthdays*

*5* Avery Johnson

*6* Audrey Burman, Joe Earle,  
Jennifer Superdock

*8* Karis Preston,  
Donna Reynolds

*9* Alex Kirkland, Jerry Traynham

*10* Ron McNeely

*11* Lewin Giusti



# This Week

## MORNING SERMON

*Dr. Richard D. Phillips*

GLAD WHEN THEY SAW

John 20:19-21

## EVENING SERMON

*Mr. Joshua D. Lyon*

THE RESURRECTION AND  
THE LIFE

John 11:17-27

## Sunday, April 5

- 7:00 A.M. SUNRISE SERVICE (*SPC Parking Lot*)  
8:00 A.M. Breakfast (*Gym*)  
8:55 A.M. Children's Chapel (*Sanctuary*)  
9:00 A.M. Children/Youth/Adult Sunday School  
(No Membership Class)  
10:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP  
5:30 P.M. Season of Prayer (*Chapel*)  
6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP

**Different  
Schedule for  
Easter Sunday!**

## Wednesday, April 8

- 5:15 P.M. WIC Council (*Fellowship Hall*)  
5:30 P.M. Missions Committee (*Conference Room*)  
5:30 P.M. FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER (*Gym*)  
6:15 P.M. Hope Choir (K4-K5); Covenant Choir (Grades 1-6);  
Youth Choir (Grades 7-12)  
6:45 P.M. WIC Circle 1 (*Conference Room*)  
6:45 P.M. Ministry Moment (*Gym*)  
7:00 P.M. CAT Kids (Ages 3-Grade 4); Covenant Kids (Grades 5-8)  
7:00 P.M. Jr. & Sr. High Bible Studies  
7:00 P.M. Adult Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (*Gym*)  
7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir

## Thursday, April 9

- 9:30 A.M. Precepts Bible Study (*Conference Room*)

## Friday, April 10

- 9:15 A.M. Raising Up Mothers (*Fellowship Hall*)  
12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon and Bible Study (*Gym*)  
1:30 P.M. Mission to Main (*Conference Room*)  
6:00 P.M. Friday Night Alive (*R. Phillips Home*)

## Saturday, April 11

- 7:00 P.M. English Country Dancing (*Gym*)

# Upcoming Events

[spcgreenville.org/calendar](http://spcgreenville.org/calendar)

<b>April 2-5</b>	Easter Services
<b>April 10-20</b>	Korea Mission Trip
<b>April 18</b>	Men of the Covenant
<b>April 19</b>	New Member Sunday
<b>April 19</b>	Communion in the Evening Service
<b>April 23</b>	Calvary Presbytery (Woodruff Road Presbyterian)
<b>May 7</b>	LightBringers
<b>May 13</b>	Graduation Banquet
<b>May 20</b>	CAT Kids Program
<b>May 27</b>	Summer Children's Choir Begins
<b>May 31</b>	Adult Summer Sunday School Begins
<b>July 6-10</b>	Vacation Bible School

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**But God,  
being rich  
in mercy,  
because of  
the great love  
with which  
he loved us...**

Ephesians 2:4

lost (Luke 19:10). He reconciles his enemies to himself by the death of his Son (Romans 5:10). He makes the spiritually stillborn children of wrath alive together with Christ because he is rich in mercy (Ephesians 2:1-5). But God benevolently binds himself by vowing to be good and do good, always and forever, to those who wait for him and seek him.

We don't wait for God like we wait for election results which may be good or bad. The Spirit-inspired Hebrew word behind "wait" is *qavah*, which can mean to "wait expectantly." It's the same word used in Job 3:9 to describe waiting on the sun to rise, knowing that it will. It's the same word used in Job 7:2 of the laborer waiting to be paid for his day's work, knowing he should. You see, it's one thing to believe that God can keep his promises. But expectant waiting is believing that God will keep his promises.

# Announcements

## With Appreciation

Praise God for a great Service of worship on March 29. A big thank you to the Chancel Choir, Soloists, and Chamber Orchestra, directed by Mr. Verlyn Smoker, and to Dr. Phillips for his message from Psalm 24. *Hallelujah! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!*



## Friday Night Alive

All 20s/Singles are invited to the Phillips Home for a meal, fellowship, and teaching time on Friday, April 10, beginning at 6:00 P.M. The book study this year is *Children of the Living God* by Sinclair Ferguson. If you would like to order a book, need a ride, or have questions, please contact Sharon Phillips.

## Men of the Covenant

Men (9th grade and above) will be having a breakfast and teaching time on Saturday, April 18, beginning at 8:00 A.M. Men are asked to bring breakfast items to share.

## Spring Showers

Ladies, mark your calendars for two spring bridal showers:

*Brice Pratt & Natalie Weaver*

Saturday, April 18, beginning at 10:00 A.M. (*Fellowship Hall*)

Registry: [theknot.com/nataliebrice](http://theknot.com/nataliebrice)

*Alex Roten & Paola Perez*

Saturday, May 30, beginning at 10:00 A.M. (*Fellowship Hall*)

Registry: [amazon.com/registry](http://amazon.com/registry)

## New Member Sunday, April 19

The church bulletin boards have information about this special day!

## Graduates!

Please email the church office with the names of any high school or post-high school young people who will graduate this spring or summer. Also, please provide the school from which they are graduating and their next steps if known. These young people will be honored at the annual Graduation Banquet on Wednesday, May 13.

**It is an active  
seeking-waiting  
that goes  
looking to  
find God  
where he has  
promised to  
be found by  
his people.**

But this expectant waiting is not a passive, thumb-twiddling, waiting. Nor is it the Hyper-Calvinists' determinism that says, "God's sovereignty cancels my responsibility." It is an active seeking-waiting that goes looking to find God where he has promised to be found by his people. And where is that? While Christians live in unbroken union with Christ and daily offer our very selves in worship, on this side of glory the Lord has promised to most wondrously meet with and bless us on the Lord's Day in corporate worship through the means of grace (i.e. the preaching of the word, prayer, and the administration of the sacraments).

God's promise in Lamentations 3:25 may have been ringing in Jesus' soul during his Sermon on the Mount when he said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened" (Matthew 7:7-9). Could it be that we receive, find, and enter into the joy of our Master on Easter more than other Sundays because we ask, seek, and knock on Easter more than other Sundays?

A pastor was shaking hands at the back door after church one Sunday when he saw an older woman in his congregation coming towards him. By her overcast demeanor and deflated shuffle, he could tell something was off.

"Are you ok, sister?"

"Not really, pastor. I hate to tell you, but worship just seemed flat and sad today. The singing was

weak. The prayers were cold. I wasn't moved by the sermon. It just didn't feel like God was with us this morning."

"Well, sister, you didn't really expect the living God to rend the heavens and come down this morning, did you? You didn't really expect the Lord to convert sinners through the preaching of the gospel, did you? You didn't really expect God to hear our prayers through Christ and change the world, did you? You didn't really expect the Holy Spirit to spark flames of revival among us this morning, did you?"

The woman shook her head and said, "No. Of course not, pastor." His face brightened with a knowing smile as he said, "Exactly."<sup>1</sup>

Elvis sang, "If every day could be just like Christmas, what a wonderful world this would be." But I wonder, if we approached every Lord's Day just like Easter, what a heavenly life this would be? Let's have Easter-high expectations of all 52 Lord's Days of the year believing that "The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him" (Lamentations 3:25). ♦

<sup>1</sup>Adapted from a Charles Spurgeon illustration.



Jim McCarthy has been Senior Pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Statesboro, Georgia since 2023. Jim was a student intern at Second Presbyterian Church from 2011–2015 and then served in two churches before coming to Trinity.



*Thanks to those who helped the Lyon family in their recent move!*