



Sunday, April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of BELLA VISTA**

1880 Forest Hills Blvd.
Bella Vista, Arkansas 72715

(479) 855-2390 www.pcbv.org
E-mail: pcbvoffice@pcbv.org

LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

LITURGIST

Jean Nichols

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Bud Clark

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Gail Knudsen

Chancel Choir

Sandy Bachelder, Betty Bennett, Arlene Biebesheimer, Jerry Biebesheimer, Marcia Beard, Bud Clark, Christy Clark, Dick Francis, Gail Knudsen, Elaine McGuire, Sharry McGuire, Peggy McMenus, Jean Nichols, Mary Nimis-Tysk, David Riter, Gary Harris, Edie Harris, Martha Stout, Karen Watson, Brenda Works, Jim Works

Bell Choir

Arlene Beibesheimer, Gail Cowdin, Rosie Floyd, Gail Knudsen, Florence Riter, Michelle Schall, Cathie Whittenberger, Sharon Warner, Karen Watson, Fran Zimmermann

WELCOME DESK

HEAD USHER

Buddy Needham

USHERS/GREETERS

Jo Bain, Dan Johnson, Buddy Needham, Nancy Ortman, Barry Owen

COFFEE HOSTS

Shepherd Group 1
Ron and Kay Burroughs

AUDIO/VISUAL

Tom Hackleman,
Steve Little, Jim Watson

A SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

An asterisk () indicates that those who are able may stand;
Bold type — please respond in unison.*

WE GATHER AND PREPARE OUR HEARTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“I Will Extol Thee”

Steven Scott

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of new beginnings—

Where there is a need for certainty,

Cultivate peace in us.

Where there is comparison,

Cultivate gentleness in us.

Where there is fear,

Cultivate hope in us.

Where there is doubt,

Cultivate faith in us.

Where there is isolation,

Cultivate worship in us;

For in worship we draw near to you and one another.

Let us worship Holy God.

*HYMN #353

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

CALL TO CONFESSION

We come to confession like a wooden boat. We are weathered by storms of our own making; we are splintered and cracked, taking on water. God meets us in our confession as an expert carpenter: sanding, repairing, repainting, again and again, until we are restored. Trusting in God's great love for us, let us join in our confession together, let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-Present God, you offer us restoration and wholeness, yet we resist you. We reduce the purpose of this life to the amount of stuff we can retain, and we disregard the damage done to our planet, our neighbors, and to ourselves in the process. We confess that we would rather remain as we are than risk the change that results from your presence in our lives. In this season of Lent, help us to realize just how much we depend on one another. Guide us to reorient our lives towards your goodness and your joy. And as you do, we ask that you renew us, restore us, and remain with us, as you always have.

(Moment of silence for personal confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The Lord has done great things for us. Through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ, we are renewed, and we are made whole. Beloved children of God, know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. Amen.

THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(Please take this opportunity to “pass the peace” to those around you.)

*GLORIA PATRI #581

WE ENCOUNTER THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, just as you spoke at the dawn of creation, continue to speak to us now as we prepare to encounter your Word. Be with us in our listening, in our speaking, in our understanding, and in our responding. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,

¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior;
they lie down; they cannot rise;
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸ Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.

¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,

²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my
praise.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 126

- ¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
² Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
³ The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
⁵ May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
⁶ Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

ANTHEM

“A Blessing of Grace”

Joseph Martin

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 12:1-8

¹² Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’s feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

SERMON

“Cultivating Selflessness and Letting Go of Judging Others”

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***HYMN #321**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please fill out a prayer card or speak directly into the microphone

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The Lord has done great things for us. Every good gift comes from God; the things we are able to do with our time, our unique talents, as well as our treasure. In response to God's generosity, we are invited to share a portion of those gifts. However you are able to give, whatever you are called to share, let us continue our worship of God through the giving of our gifts.

OFFERTORY *"How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings"* Samuel Liddle

***DOXOLOGY #606** *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of all gifts, we are grateful for the many ways you continue to provide for us. As we offer a portion of these gifts today, we ask that you might receive them and transform them. Allow these gifts to become acts of restoration and hope, here in this community and beyond. So that all of your children might live into the abundance and the joy that you offer us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO MINISTER

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #331 *“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”*

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*GOING FORTH *“Go Now in Peace”*

*POSTLUDE *“Behold A King is Coming”* Todd Kendall



Weekly Vista

WELCOME!

We hope you will find your time of worship with us to be very meaningful. We are an open faith community.

Please visit www.pcbv.org, or call the Church Office at 855-2390 if you would like to learn more about us and inquire about membership.

OFFICE HOURS

MON- THURS:
9 am to 3 pm
FRIDAY: CLOSED

For pastoral emergencies, please call or text Pastor Judi at 479-403-9082.

Pastor's day off is Friday, she will return calls later. To schedule an in-person appointment, please email her at jmcmillan@pcbv.org stating your need.

Deacons on Call
for April :
Frank Taylor
Butch Cowdin

03/30/2025 Attendance:
Members/Friends: 67 Guests: 7
Online: 12



You are invited
to refreshments
and a time of

Sugar-free cookies will no longer be supplied, unless the Shepherd group for that week chooses to do so.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY
SERVICE—APRIL 17TH
@ 6PM**

Reminder: If you change your phone number, or move and have a new address, please let Ann know so she can make the change in the directory. You can do this by sending her an email: Adavidson@pcbv.org or calling the office during office hours. We want to make sure we have current addresses and phone numbers for all members. Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS

April 6 Delores Jennings

April 9 Dorothy Margve

April 12 David Warner

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 6

8:30-9:30am Brunch with Youth/
Presbytery
9am Christian Ed Class
10am Worship
11am-12pm Fellowship Time (F/H)

Monday, April 7

1pm—Operations (A)

Tuesday, April 8

4:40-5:50pm—Taize Music
(Sanctuary)
5-6pm—Lenton Soup Supper
(F/H)
5:30pm—6:30pm Men's AA (A)

Wednesday, April 9

10:30-11:30am Staff Meeting (A)
5:00pm Bell Choir
6:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 10

1-2pm—PW Meeting (F/H)
2-3pm—Book Group (F/H)

Friday, April 11

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
1-3pm—Knitting for Peace

Saturday, April 12

8am—12pm Art Group (F/H)
9am—Stated Session—Boundary
Training #2 (A)

Sunday, April 13

9am Christian Ed Class
10am Worship (Palm Sunday)
11am-12pm Fellowship Time (F/H)



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

MARCH 5 – APRIL 20, 2025



WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

Please support One Great Hour of Sharing.



Order forms will be available today and next Sundays for Easter flowers—\$18 each. They are available at the welcome desk and in connector hallway. Orders will be due by April 14th. Please contact Shirley Olson if you have questions.

We have several members of our congregation on our Podcast—'Let's Talk' (on the PCBV website). Anyone can listen to their stories. Please reach out to Pastor Judi or Nancy Ortman if you would like to be interviewed.



ANOINTED

BY LAUREN WRIGHT PITTMAN

INSPIRED BY JOHN 12:1-8 | ACRYLIC & INK ON CANVAS

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

When I was little, I would run around my grandparents' yard barefoot, playing tag, basketball, or intense battles of tetherball. All of the residue from my adventures would stick to the bottoms of my feet until they almost became one with the ground. I would come inside, and my grandmother would quickly call me to the bathroom so she could wipe my feet off with a warm washrag. I

loved the feeling of the warm water against my feet, the texture of the washrag scratching away the grime of the day, and the hands of my grandmother lovingly squeezing my feet.

When I was preparing to paint this image, I propped my phone up against a wall, started recording, and knelt down on the ground pretending I was washing Jesus' feet. My face was close to the ground with all the dust and dog hair that clings to my rug and I began to run my fingers through my hair, washing an imaginary foot. My dog Rumi came over, plopped herself down in front of me, and I began to pretend wash her paws. I giggled to myself and called to my husband, asking if he'd lend his feet to the scene. I quickly said to him, "But please don't take your shoes off." I didn't want to experience his feet that close to my face; after all it was winter and feet tend to be a little more ripe after a long day in wooly socks. I began to rub my hair over his booted feet and I felt this profound sense of vulnerability and discomfort. The image of me kneeling as my husband sat in a comfortable chair was a difficult one for me to see reflected back at me on my phone. I wasn't even willing to fake wash my husband's bare feet. The amount of love it took to do this act willingly seems astronomical to me. I then asked my husband to take his shoes off. As I rubbed my hair on his feet I felt like crying.

This is the posture that Jesus calls all of us into; a profoundly uncomfortable, shockingly reverent position; coming face to face, intimately engaging with the residue of Christ's footsteps to smell and almost taste the journey of Christ.

— LAUREN WRIGHT PITTMAN