



Riverlawn Presbyterian Church
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www.riverlawnchurch.org



April 2025

It's almost Easter, everyone! It's almost here! Why is that so exciting? Why can I not help but proclaim it to all who would hear? Because He is risen! Jesus is alive! We serve a Savior who conquered death itself so that we could be delivered from it! We worship and follow not a leader who came and taught and then died, like everyone else. We serve the Son of God, who became one of us, who suffered for our sakes, who died, and then came back!

Remember what Jesus said to Martha after Lazarus had been dead for four days? John 11:25-26 - "I AM the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Well, do you?! Jesus goes on to say in verse 40, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" They are given a glimpse of that glory when Jesus brings Lazarus back to life. And they encounter the fullness of that glory when Jesus Himself breaks forth from the grave, proving the power of His wonderful words - I AM the Resurrection and the Life!

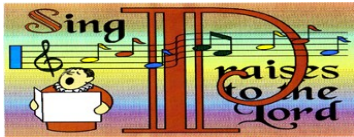
Do you believe? Do you trust in the words of the angelic messenger, "He is not here. He is risen, just as He said!" (Mk. 16:6) I cannot begin to describe the joy and exhilaration of reading this story of stories - this central event of human history - this most powerful of scenes capturing the great love and power of our redeeming God! Is there anything more beautiful? Is there anything more wonderful? Is there anything more powerful ... then the fact that Jesus is alive?! It moves me to tears! And shouldn't we have the same fascination that children have? Shouldn't the greatest of good news compel us to proclaim again and again and again ... He is risen!

Words worth meditating on: Do not abandon yourselves to despair: We are the Easter people, and Hallelujah is our song (Pope John Paul II). Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection (Watchman Nee). A dead Christ I must do everything for; a living Christ does everything for me (Andrew Murray). Let every man and woman count himself immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in his resurrection. Let him say not merely, "Christ is risen," but "I shall rise" (Phillips Brooks).



To my Easter Family,
Christ is risen and we shall rise!

Pastor Chris



MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

It's cantata time! But before the cantata is presented Aaron Sowards will be with us on April 6 and sharing some flute solos. He will be playing Lenten selections for the prelude and offertory as well as joining the choir on the anthem.

During the morning worship service on April 13 the choir will be joined by a 10 piece instrumental ensemble and will be presenting the cantata *Whispers of the Passion* by Joseph Martin. The narration and musical moments of the cantata incorporates simple symbols and visual aids with each bringing its own message. The choir's first selection is a musical invitation to 'come and hear;' to listen to words of hope and contemplate God's grace. You will see a representation of the ancient walls of Jerusalem and palm branches waved to welcome Jesus into the city; a chalice, the grail of mercy; finest purple cloth - Christ's robe and vestment of shame; a crown of thorns used as a tool of torture and a cross – once a tree bursting with life but now an instrument of death. After the presentation of each item there is an anthem that relates to that message. Please join us on the 13th (Palm Sunday) and be a part of this special service. It will be a time to lay aside the clamor of the day and hear about God's grace and redemption.

The choir will also be sharing an anthem during our Good Friday Service (April 18 at 7:00) which is here at Riverlawn and we will have special music on Easter Sunday as we lift voices to celebrate our Risen Savior.

In closing I would like to thank all of you who made the trip to Charleston to hear my recital at First Presbyterian Church on March 19th. I appreciated each of you who attended. It was special looking out and seeing all those Riverlawn folks gathered for this event. You're the best!

Have a wonderful April and be sure to take time to enjoy the new life popping up all around us. I'm loving the jonquils, tulips, hyacinths and beauty of the season. Yeah Spring!

Pam



Join in us on Wednesday nights for Family Night, a time to enjoy friendships and our church family, with dinner at 5:30. Activities for the children and youth begin at 6:15.

WEDNESDAY KITCHEN CREW

April	2	Pam Johnson & Frances Miller
	9	Mimi Albert & Sherry Claar
	16	Pam Johnson
	23	Judy Clingenpeel & Sherry Claar
	30	Pam Johnson

Available to substitute – Susan Bryan (304) 389-6063 and Sherry Claar.



1st	Anne Giersch	11th	Avery Vaughn
2nd	Linda Wilson	13th	Grayson Cottrill
6th	Rosie Rhodes	17th	Erin Roberts
7th	Abigail Michels	23rd	Jim Pittard
9th	Joe Lothes	24th	Drew Michael
10th	Adam Bryan		

EASTER EGGS-STRAVAGANZA



Join us for our upcoming Wednesday family night Eggs-stravaganza on April 16th. We will have our normal dinner at 5:30, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and crafts for all ages beginning at 6:15.

Hopping you will join us and invite your friends!!

If you have any questions please contact Mimi Albert at 304-546-6547.

Current St. Albans Food Pantry needs:

*Items needed for the Saint Albans Food Pantry.

- * Small bottle of vegetable oil
- * Vienna sausage
- * Peanut butter
- * Small bag sugar
- * Brownie mix



Junior Church is offered for PreK through 5th grade on Sunday mornings after the Children's Message, until 11:30 or when the church service ends.



Choir will meet each Thursday in April at 7:00 p.m.— April 10 is cantata rehearsal and dinner.



*Bible study of Romans, Volume 2 with J.D. Greear, lead by Pastor Chris meets Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. in the Cottage.



Join us for EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE, 7:00 a.m. at Cunningham Memorial, Upper Mausoleum.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Shirley Powell; Ruth Watts (Anne Giersch); Randy Fizer (Wanda Smith); The Family of Joyce Ryan; Jason Haught (Gayle Michael); Beth Ann Taylor (Kathy Barnes); Wanda Smith; Sherry Ellis; Cathy Lothes (Jane Lothes); The Todd Barrie Family; Abby Michels/Kay Craigo/Tony Craigo/Niki Michels (Susan Bryan); Phyllis Kellam/Betty Steen (Doris Kellam); Joanna Keller; Jill Snyder; Joe Lothes; Missy Sneed; Carroll Miller; Jason Haught (Sharon Farley); Christine Bearia; Dale Dodrill (Randy Dodrill); Darrell Williams (Mary Kathren Watson); Robin Burnam; Eddie Mcfall (Linda Ross' son); Mike VonDuben (Gayle Michael); Greg Cook; Collin Recknagel (Adam & Sandra Recknagel); Lois Jackson (Todd Barrie); Emma Rose Cavender; Kathy Barnes; Caroline Dodrill; Arlis Miller (Joe Lothes); Gretna Michels (Susan Bryan); Angel Grover (Brenda Petry); Travis Keller (Ray Keller); Pam Mullins; Lori Goodwin (Brenda Petry); Elizabeth Thompson (Bill Bryan); Jenna Meadows; JB Recknagel; Janet Young; Mick Hughes (Caroline Dodrill); and for the Global Church that we may embody the gospel to all.



Visitation Teams/Schedule

Week of:	
April 6	Dennis Emmett
April 13	Pastor Chris
April 20	Mary Reppert / Sharon Herndon
April 27	Mimi Albert / Jamie Albert



BUILDING SECURITY

*After church lock-up for April is Mimi Albert and Mary Reppert.

*After hours security check for April:

Week of:	
6	Butch & Sharon Herndon
13	Pat Croghan
20	Ron Claar
27	Jamie Albert

If you are unable to cover the security check on your scheduled week, please let Pat Croghan know (304)989-1894.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 18, 7:00 pm at Riverlawn

This will be a joint service with 1st Presbyterian Church, St. Albans.

Tenebrae (meaning "darkness" or "shadows") is an ancient Christian tradition recalling the somber events of Jesus' last days, beginning with the Last Supper and ending with his burial. During Tenebrae, candles are extinguished one by one as scripture and music tell the story of Holy Week.



Bluestone Camp & Retreat The Guys' Weekend April 25–27 @ Bluestone

Join us for our 16th Annual Men's Retreat, a weekend of:

encouraging growth in faith
(great keynote speakers);

Employing our gifts in service
(in particular to serve the ministry of Bluestone)

To glorify and enjoy God forever
(in work, worship, and fellowship)

Retreat cost is \$85 per person Dinner for early arrivals on Friday is \$12.

Questions?? Call Mark (304) 860-8281 or email: mark@bluestonecamp.org to have forms and information emailed to you.

Registration and medical release forms are available online. bluestonecamp.org/guys-weekend.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 22

Fees include two nights lodging, three meals Saturday and one meal on Sunday. Youth are encouraged to attend as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

Easter Sunday Worship

Join us for our Easter Sunday worship where we will be flowering the cross.



The "flowering of the cross" is an Easter tradition where a bare wooden cross, a symbol of Jesus' death, is transformed into a vibrant, flowered cross, representing the new life of Christ's resurrection.



FAMILY SPRING GETAWAY RETREAT May 2–4 @ Bluestone

Retreat cost—\$85 Youth—\$50 (ages 4-11)

Join us for a fun and relaxing low key retreat!

There'll be plenty of good food and fellowship
.... plus

- * trail hike for craft you can do at your leisure
- * study track w/weekend chaplain
- * games, campfires, devotions
- * plenty of time and space to just simply be

For more information, visit our web page to retrieve registration and medical forms as well as general information and details:

bluestonecamp.org/spring-getaway

OR

Contact mark@bluestonecamp.org to have forms and information emailed to you.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 30

Fees include two nights lodging, three meals Saturday and one meal on Sunday.

Join us for the **2025 St. Albans Lenten Series – “Loving God by Serving Others”**

Services begin Wednesdays at Noon, followed by lunch and fellowship!

April 2	St. Andrew United Methodist	Speaker: Rev. Chris Kilbert (Riverlawn Presbyterian)
April 9	Gateway Christian Church	Speaker: Pastor James Mullins (Goodwyn’s Chapel)

Sponsored by the St. Albans Ministry Alliance

Our local benevolences:

Christ’s Kitchen, Community Bridge, Gabriel Project, Hezekiah House,
 Jericho House, Jubilee Emergency Assistance, St. Albans Food Pantry,
 St. Paul Community Economic Development Corporation

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**Dates to Remember**

- 04/02 Lenten Service & Lunch – St. Andrew United Methodist – Noon – Pastor Chris preaching
- 04/06 Session Meeting—2pm via Zoom
- 04/09 Lenten Service & Lunch – Gateway Church – Noon
- 04/13 Palm Sunday – Easter Music Program – 10:30am
- 04/13 Deacons’ Meeting after worship service
- 04/16 Wednesday Family Night – Dinner at 5:30 – **EGG-STRAVAGANZA EASTER EGG HUNT – 6:15**
- 04/18 Good Friday Tenebrae – **at Riverlawn** – 7:00pm – a joint service with 1st Presby St. Albans, Highlawn Presby, and 1st Presby Nitro
- 04/20 Easter Sunrise Service – 7:00am – Cunningham Memorial – Upper Mausoleum
- 04/25-04/27 Guys Weekend – Bluestone Camp & Retreat
- 05/02-05/03 Colombia Mission Two-Day Yard Sale
- 05/02-05/04 Family Weekend – Bluestone Camp & Retreat

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June 2025 Mission Team Yard Sale Information

Yard Sale Dates:

Friday, May 2, 2025: 8:00 AM -7:00 PM ;Saturday, May 3, 2025: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM (St. Albans City Wide)

Donation Drop-off Dates:

April 28th (Monday) through April 30th (Wednesday)

Important Notes:

Space is limited at the church for storing items prior to the sale. For bulky items (furniture, appliances, etc.), please contact Barb or Jim. Please no large gym equipment, or old printers, computers . We can accept a wide variety of *gently used items*, including:

- Furniture** (indoor and outdoor)
- Appliances**
- Clothing**
- Books**
- Toys**
- Household items**
- Sports equipment**
- Tools**



If you prefer, you can also make a monetary donation to support the mission trip. Every little bit of help makes a difference! If you need more details or want to sign up to volunteer, just let me know.

If you have any specific questions about an item you'd like to donate, feel free to ask!

2025 Riverlawn Elders and Board of Deacons

Elders

Jamie Albert, Clerk of Session, Community & Family Ministries, Evangelism
681-340-1128; James.macd.albert@gmail.com

Dennis Emmett, Finance & Stewardship
304-610-7535; emmett@suddenlink.net

Sharon Herndon, Christian Nurture
304-444-2071; Polecat818@hotmail.com

Parry Johnson, Buildings & Grounds
304-926-4745; Parryjohnson1@gmail.com

Joe Lothes, Missions
304-767-8313; fishlothes@hotmail.com

Steve Wilson, Worship & Fellowship
304-741-7890; stevewillie@suddenlink.net

04/06 Session via Zoom, 2:00pm

Deacons

Mimi Albert—304-546-6547
Mimialbert72@yahoo.com

Robin Burnam – 304-722-5665
robinsnestsawv@hotmail.com

Linda Monday – 304-541-4927
lindadmonday@gmail.com

Mary Reppert—304-419-2755
Reppert.mary@gmail.com

Linda Wilson – 304-741-3113
Linda.wilson867@gmail.com

..... Deacon's Meeting following worship.



Friday, April 21

Nurturing Faith Ideas

April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent Read John 12:1-8
Mary gave Jesus a costly gift as she anointed his feet with perfume. In this season of Lent, what gift would you offer Jesus to show your love for him? Share with a family member or friend.

April 13: Palm/Passion Sunday Today begins Holy Week, when we remember the events between Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to this death of the cross before his resurrection. On Thursday, we celebrate Maundy Thursday, the night when Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment – to love one another. Make a list of ways you can show your love to your family members this week and do so.

April 20: Resurrection of the Lord Sunday Read Luke 24:1-12 On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the good news of the angel that Jesus' tomb was empty; Jesus had been raised and was alive! With your friends and family, share the ancient greeting: "Christ is risen!" to which they may respond, "He is risen indeed." Be prepared to share the response if others greet you this way. See how many know the response when you greet them.

April 27: Second Sunday of Easter Read John 20:19-31 Thomas couldn't believe what the other disciples told him about having seen the risen Jesus; he needed to see him for himself. Jesus returned and Thomas believed. What causes you to doubt? Acknowledge your doubts before Christ and ask him to help you trust and believe.

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*Riverlawn Strives To*

*Purge ourselves of pride by focusing on glorifying God*

*Teach the truth through fellowship & discipleship*

*Demonstrate a life of love through service to others*

*Share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those in need*

**Purge Pride, Teach Truth, Live Love**