



NEWSLETTER FOR KIRK OF THE HILLS

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN FAIRFIELD BAY, ARKANSAS
James W. Davis, R.E.M., Pastor

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Pastor's Pen

Isaiah 41:10

King James Version

¹⁰ Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all doing well. I'm truly excited as we approach Holy Week. Our elders have done a wonderful job preparing everything, and I'm grateful for their dedication.

We have a beautiful Palm/Passion Sunday service planned. We will begin by gathering outside and processing in together, waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!" The service will then shift in tone as we hear the unfolding of Christ's passion through Scripture. This year, because the Eucharist is such an important part of the service, we will share Communion during the portion of the reading that recalls the Lord's Supper. I believe it will be a deeply meaningful and moving time of worship.

We are also preparing for meaningful Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, which will lead us to our Easter Sunrise Service at the Cave. We'll be joined by our friends from Peace Lutheran, along with Karen Tangen on keyboard, Janice Thompson, and the Community Choir.

I'm also happy to share that Grant Worden will be joining the Kirk as a member after Holy Week. We're all excited to welcome him!

Many of you know I was in the hospital for four days last week. I'm improving a little more each day. Thank you all so much for your prayers, calls, and visits—they meant a great deal and truly helped me through.

Grace and Peace!
Pastor Jim

APRIL CHURCH CALENDAR

- 4/2 - Maundy Thursday Service 5:00 pm
- 4/3 - Good Friday Service 5:00 pm
- 4/5 - Sunrise Service, Indian Rock Cave 7:00 am
- 4/5 - Easter Service in Sanctuary 10:00 am
- 4/13 - Session Meeting Upper Room 9:00 am
- 4/13 - The Chosen, Activities Center, 5:00 pm
- 4/16 - Friends Meeting 1 pm Upper Room
- 4/19 - Newsletter articles due



The Mission Committee delivered over \$200 worth of non-perishable food to the Food Pantry and Backpack Program at Shirley Schools. These products include peanut butter, instant Ramon, instant oatmeal, granola bars, canned tuna and chicken, mac & cheese, pop tarts, ravioli and soups.

One Great Hour of Sharing will conclude April 5th, so there is still time to donate for specific items or general contributions. Proceeds will be forwarded to PCUSA denomination office.

The first gathering of the Dementia/Alzheimer caregivers and care receivers was on March 28th. The outreach program is to be a support for caregivers of Alzheimer affected loved ones, while providing activities for those who live with the disease. Pastor Davis and Mary will coordinate activities while Brian Horner will moderate discussion and outside speakers for the caregivers.

Brian Horner, Mission Elder

WORSHIP

Pastor Jim, Brian Horner and I recently returned from the 161st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery, which was held at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, AR. This was no stuffy-old meeting! Yes, there was the required business meeting with reports from all the committees, some of which were very interesting and informative, especially to someone like me who is new to all of this. But there was also a beautiful and upbeat worship service, with song and dance by students from the University. Several students helped with the serving of Communion, and they also were our shuttle drivers between the buildings on their campus. During the meeting, two new pulpit fills were introduced and there was a retirement celebration for one of the Leadership team members.

Back to what's happening here at home: We had 12 members participate in our World Day of Prayer on March 6th. I want to express a BIG thank you to our greeters for this event!

Holy Week is here! There are a lot of opportunities this week to walk the path with our Lord and Saviour! Palm Sunday starts us off with the procession of palm fronds, celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday is the remembrance of the Last Supper and Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Christ. These services will be held at 5:00 p.m. on April 2nd & 3rd.

We will have two services to celebrate the Risen Christ on Easter! The "Sunrise" service will be at 7:00 a.m. We thought it was best to wait until the sun was up so that we could safely gather at the cave! Transportation from the parking lot of Little Red Restaurant will be provided for those who need assistance and there will be seating at the cave site. This is a community event so spread the word. This is a celebration we really want to share!

A second celebration will be at our regular 10:00 a.m. service time in the Kirk of the Hills Sanctuary. The Resurrection of Christ was such a spectacular event, we really should celebrate it twice, don't you think?

I know Easter Week is a special time for all our worshipers, but I certainly don't want to forget to thank everyone that has agreed to help make this a special time for all of you. It takes a village and I love the village I live and worship in.

Happy Easter!

Karen Ostlund, Worship Elder



The Session met on March 9, 2026. February minutes and Treasurer reports were accepted as presented. It was noted that the shortage in year-to-date income can be partially due to closing church for two Sundays due to icy weather.

Key information from committees' reports was that a CVLI license that provides legal coverage while allowing the Kirk to play videos at functions will be purchased, it was voted to move forward with the dementia care support group program based at the Kirk beginning on March 28, 11:00 a.m. Brian Horner has taken the lead for this program. Congregational Care reported that two prayer quilts will be tied on March 15th for congregation members. Max Nigh transitioned from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant on February 17, 2026. Holy communion was served on February 1 and on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

Holy week begins on Palm Sunday, March 29, with members of the congregation proceeding into the sanctuary from outside the church at the cross. Maundy Thursday Service will be at 5:00 pm and Good Friday Service will also be at 5:00 p.m. The Easter Sunrise service planned for 7:00 a.m. at Indian Rock Cave is developing into a meaningful and memorable event. There will also be an Easter worship service in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.

Skip Davis, Clerk of Session

Financial Report

Financial revenue in February 2026 was \$9075.25. Revenue increased during the month by \$4315.25 due to increased contributions to the General Fund. Church expenses during the month were \$13480.73. Expenses during the month increased by \$3679.28 when compared to January 2026. Exceptional expenses for the month included a quarterly insurance payment and propane purchases. Kirk's investment account decreased by \$1234.56 in February due to a falling stock market.

Kirk continues to maintain two bank accounts and three Certificate of Deposit accounts with Eagle Bank in Fairfield Bay. In addition, the Kirk holds a Mutual Fund Investment account through the Presbyterian Foundation.

Wayne Slaughter, Finance Elder

2026 KIRK FINANCIAL CORNER

	<u>February</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Revenue	\$9,075.25	\$13,835.22
Expenses	\$13,480.73	\$23,282.18
Net	<u>\$(4,405.48)</u>	<u>\$(9,446.96)</u>

STEWARDSHIP

It's spring and the creative hand of God is evident everywhere. Just as the landscape changes from the dormant winter to vibrant life, April offers a perfect opportunity to renew our own commitment to being faithful stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to us.

Stewardship is often misunderstood as just "church fundraising." However, true biblical stewardship is a way of life and our loving response to His grace.

Many of us are spending time in our gardens, clearing away the old to make room for the new. Similarly, we are called to be good stewards of our time through prayer and serving others. The gifts God has given us—musical talent, a listening ear, teaching, organizational skills—are meant to be used to serve the church family and community. It is not through a sense of obligation that we do this; it comes from a thankful heart.

This month, try a "stewardship audit" of your daily routine. Can you give five minutes more to prayer? Can you use one skill to help a ministry in need? Can you make your giving more consistent? Let us strive to be stewards of God's grace, being inspired by His word to reflect His love and mercy in all we do.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." — 1 Peter 4:10

Wayne Slaughter, Stewardship Elder

Sunday
Easter
Sunrise Service

APRIL 5, 2026
7:00 A.M.
INDIAN ROCK CAVE
337 Snead Dr
Fairfield Bay

Seating provided at the cave
Transportation available from the museum in parking lot, if needed
Family-friendly trail to the cave on both sides of the museum. On the north side take the middle trail. There are also steps in front of the cabin that lead to the cave.
If raining, the service will be moved to Kirk of the Hills, 250 Dave Creek
Hosted by Presbyterian Kirk of the Hills

NOTES FROM THE TOOLROOM

I have been somewhat remiss about communicating the maintenance issues here at the Kirk. My highest priority is addressing the roof leaks. Some of you may be unaware that water leaks into the Parlor nearly every time it rains. Had a roofer in to inspect and he said the roof was okay, it was more likely a siding and trim issue around the slanted window on the west side. Had a construction guy in, he agreed. Haven't got the quote back yet as he said they were really busy and several months out on business. The other roof leak is on the ramp to the old fellowship hall. Whenever there is ice on the roof, and melting, water comes in the stained-glass Last Supper window. Both of these issues have been long term issues, but hopefully will be addressed this year or next, depending on extent of damage.

We attempted to clean the carpet in the Upper Room last week with a household carpet shampooer. Didn't work well. Couldn't generate enough suction with the type of carpet it is with the shampooer, tried a wet/dry vac with only a slight improvement. Put two gallons of water and solution into the carpet and only retrieved about a half gallon. Which means we didn't get much of the dirt out. I will be getting quotes from a couple of commercial cleaning outfits. If that doesn't work out, Andrea (our cleaning technician) and I will work on stain removal.

If you have driven by the church after dark, you may have noticed that the front stained-glass window is lit up again, and the parking lot lights have been upgraded with brighter bulbs. Current projects include installation of a Ring doorbell at the front entrance, repair and reinstallation of the wind sculpture in the Master's Garden, and getting louvers installed on the furnace room doors for adequate supply air to the furnaces.

Ken Ostlund



APRIL

- 4/2 Linda Davis
- 4/9 Jim Kennedy
- 4/16 Scott Worden
- 4/26 Larry Drannon



NONE

APRIL VOLUNTEERS

Ushers

- 4/2 Ken Ostlund & Linda Morrison
- 4/3 Wayne Slaughter & Roger Brock
- 4/5 Dianne Traylor
- 4/5 Pati Leitner & Johnna Jackson
- 4/12 Kay Otis & Kathy Horner
- 4/19
- 4/26

Liturgists

- 4/2 Angela Worrell, Skip Davis & Kay Otis
- 4/3 Karen Ostlund & Mary Davis
- 4/5 Easter
- 4/12 Brian Horner
- 4/19 Mary Davis
- 4/26 Nancy Nueller

Fellowship

- 4/5 No Fellowship
- 4/12 Men's Club
- 4/19 Kathy & Brian Horner
- 4/26 Johnna Jackson