

Welcome to First Covenant Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Happy Easter! We are so glad you joined us for worship today!
- Children's Church is beginning again! Starting today, children will be dismissed following the children's moment to go upstairs for children's church!
- The flowers at the front of the sanctuary are given in memory of loved ones by their families and friends. A list of these loved ones can be found on the welcome table this morning. These flowers will be distributed to our "special friends" who are unable to worship with us in person.
- Join us following worship today for muffins and refreshments in the main hallway!
- Game Day & March Madness: Saturday, April 6th beginning at 3 PM. Join us at 3 PM to play some games! Stick around to watch some March Madness Semi-Finals at 6:30 PM. Hot Dogs will be provided. Please bring a snack to share if you are able.
- The office will be closed on Monday, April 8th. Enjoy watching the solar eclipse!
- Let's celebrate Pastor Liz's installation! Sunday, April 14th! Join us for worship at 10 AM followed by brunch in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Sarah in the office by April 7th if you plan to attend.

SPECIAL FRIENDS:

Marian Alm; 193 Aldren Ave.; Jamestown, NY 14701

Sheryl Baker; 101 E. 4th St.; Jamestown, NY 14701

Ginny & Bob Beckstrom; PO Box 131; Ashville, NY 14710

FIRST COVENANT CHURCH // 520 SPRING STREET

PASTOR ELIZABETH WHITNEY // SENIOR PASTOR

PASTOR JULIE CHALLINGSWORTH // PASTOR OF YOUTH, ADULT & WORSHIP (PASTORJULIE@FIRSTCOV.CHURCH)

SARAH OEHLBECK // OFFICE MANAGER (OFFICE@FIRSTCOV.CHURCH)



REFLECTIONS

JOHN 20:1-18

EARLY ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, WHILE IT WAS STILL DARK, MARY MAGDALENE WENT TO THE TOMB AND SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ENTRANCE. 2 SO SHE CAME RUNNING TO SIMON PETER AND THE OTHER DISCIPLE, THE ONE JESUS LOVED, AND SAID, "THEY HAVE TAKEN THE LORD OUT OF THE TOMB, AND WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY HAVE PUT HIM!" 3 SO PETER AND THE OTHER DISCIPLE STARTED FOR THE TOMB. 4 BOTH WERE RUNNING, BUT THE OTHER DISCIPLE OUTFRAN PETER AND REACHED THE TOMB FIRST. 5 HE BENT OVER AND LOOKED IN AT THE STRIPS OF LINEN LYING THERE BUT DID NOT GO IN. 6 THEN SIMON PETER CAME ALONG BEHIND HIM AND WENT STRAIGHT INTO THE TOMB. HE SAW THE STRIPS OF LINEN LYING THERE, 7 AS WELL AS THE CLOTH THAT HAD BEEN WRAPPED AROUND JESUS' HEAD. THE CLOTH WAS STILL LYING IN ITS PLACE, SEPARATE FROM THE LINEN. 8 FINALLY THE OTHER DISCIPLE, WHO HAD REACHED THE TOMB FIRST, ALSO WENT INSIDE. HE SAW AND BELIEVED. 9 (THEY STILL DID NOT UNDERSTAND FROM SCRIPTURE THAT JESUS HAD TO RISE FROM THE DEAD.) 10 THEN THE DISCIPLES WENT BACK TO WHERE THEY WERE STAYING. 11 NOW MARY STOOD OUTSIDE THE TOMB CRYING. AS SHE WEPT, SHE BENT OVER TO LOOK INTO THE TOMB 12 AND SAW TWO ANGELS IN WHITE, SEATED WHERE JESUS' BODY HAD BEEN, ONE AT THE HEAD AND THE OTHER AT THE FOOT. 13 THEY ASKED HER, "WOMAN, WHY ARE YOU CRYING?" "THEY HAVE TAKEN MY LORD AWAY," SHE SAID, "AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY HAVE PUT HIM." 14 AT THIS, SHE TURNED AROUND AND SAW JESUS STANDING THERE, BUT SHE DID NOT REALIZE THAT IT WAS JESUS. 15 HE ASKED HER, "WOMAN, WHY ARE YOU CRYING? WHO IS IT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR?" THINKING HE WAS THE GARDENER, SHE SAID, "SIR, IF YOU HAVE CARRIED HIM AWAY, TELL ME WHERE YOU HAVE PUT HIM, AND I WILL GET HIM." 16 JESUS SAID TO HER, "MARY." SHE TURNED TOWARD HIM AND CRIED OUT IN ARAMAIC, "RABBONI!" (WHICH MEANS "TEACHER"). 17 JESUS SAID, "DO NOT HOLD ON TO ME, FOR I HAVE NOT YET ASCENDED TO THE FATHER. GO INSTEAD TO MY BROTHERS AND TELL THEM, 'I AM ASCENDING TO MY FATHER AND YOUR FATHER, TO MY GOD AND YOUR GOD.'" 18 MARY MAGDALENE WENT TO THE DISCIPLES WITH THE NEWS: "I HAVE SEEN THE LORD!" AND SHE TOLD THEM THAT HE HAD SAID THESE THINGS TO HER.