

Harvey Browne Memorial



Presbyterian Church

Making a Difference

Sunday School at Home

Week of Sunday, April 4, 2021

These activities are designed to be a resource for at-home spiritual formation activities during this time when we are unable to gather in person for Sunday School. These ideas are for people of all ages and families of all sizes.

Learning about the Liturgical Year

The Season of Easter

Easter for Christians is not just one day - it is a 50-day period. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.

Today, this extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say Christ is risen.

As "Easter people," we celebrate and ponder the birth of the Church and gifts of the Spirit (Pentecost), and how we are to live as faithful disciples of Christ.



Hear God's Story

John 20:1-18 – Empty Tomb

In today's scripture story, we hear about Mary's first meeting with Jesus after his resurrection. And one thing to know about Resurrected Jesus is that he somehow looks different than he did before his resurrection.

We know this because Mary does not *recognize* him right away.

But what we hear in the story is that Resurrected Jesus *sounds* the same.

So, when Jesus says Mary's name, Mary *recognized* Resurrected Jesus by how he spoke to her, by how he said her name.

For the same reason that you can recognize certain animals without seeing them, Mary was able to recognize Jesus by the way he said her name.

What resurrection is, and what it means, is not easily or quickly understood.

Mary, in today's story, helps us understand that the more familiar we are with Jesus, the easier it is to recognize resurrection and Resurrected Jesus.

This is a good reminder, then, of one the reasons for why we choose to regularly read and talk about the Jesus stories – as a way for us to become more familiar with him, his actions, and what he taught.

And, the more familiar Jesus is to us, the better we will be at recognizing and understanding resurrection and Resurrected Jesus – just like Mary.



Thoughts to Ponder

Think of someone you want to celebrate and praise. How would you show that person that you love him or her?

Worship at Home

Please join our church family for worship on Facebook Live or YouTube Sunday at 10:30 am. Download Printable Children's Bulletin is available each week.

Mission and Ministry

The mission focus for the month of April is **Habitat for Humanity** – there will be a special offering but there are also Habitat for Humanity Restore that accepts donations of goods. Check out their website.

Habitat for Humanity is a global nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in approximately 70 countries. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Habitat works toward our vision by building strength, stability, and self-reliance in partnership with families in need of decent and affordable housing. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage.

I have several children's books about Habitat for Humanity if anyone would like to borrow one to read with their children.

