

# THE TIDINGS

*the monthly newsletter of*

**Pineda Presbyterian Church**

**april**  
2026



## **THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND** *(Maundy Thursday)*

7:00 p.m. — **Maundy Thursday Worship Service with Communion** *(Sanctuary)*

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH** *(Easter Sunday)*

7:30 a.m. — **Easter Vigil** *(Sanctuary)*

8:45 a.m. — **Easter Breakfast** *(Fellowship Hall)*

10:00 a.m. — **Worship Service with Communion** *(Sanctuary)*  
*(One Great Hour of Sharing Offering)*

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH**

9:00 a.m. — **Adult Sunday School** *(Room A)*

10:00 a.m. — **Worship Service** *(Sanctuary)*

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH**

9:00 a.m. — **Adult Sunday School** *(Room A)*

10:00 a.m. — **Worship Service** *(Sanctuary)*

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH**

9:00 a.m. — **Adult Sunday School** *(Room A)*

10:00 a.m. — **Worship Service** *(Sanctuary)*  
*(Five Cents per Meal Offering)*

## **Lectionary Readings**

### **April 5th** **Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34-43

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

### **April 12th**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

### **April 19th**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

### **April 26th**

Acts 2:42-47

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

## **PINEDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**5650 N. Wickham Road, Palm Shores, FL 32940**

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# INVITATION TO EASTER VIGIL

*Rev. Emily Wasser*

Holy Saturday sometimes feels like it's the forgotten day in the Triduum Trio. Maundy Thursday gets a lot of attention, people take note of Good Friday, and come Sunday, Easter gets all the love it's due, but Holy Saturday...I don't even think most people know it's called "Holy Saturday" or that it, and not Easter, is the third day of our Triduum Trio. And what's more, I don't think people realize that Holy Saturday has it's own ritual, because so few Churches celebrate it...but not this year.



## Easter *Vigil*

Easter Vigil is the typical Holy Saturday tradition within the church. It's the ritual that was built to usher in the celebration of Easter. The way it worked, always has worked, is that the church would gather together in one place on the night before Easter, and they would read. They would read Old Testament Scriptures, old and familiar: The creation, Adam and Eve, the Patriarchs, Moses and the Israelites, Ruth and Naomi, David and Goliath, Sampson and Delilah, Jonah, portions of Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Malichi. They would read the story of God and God's people. Our story. In between scriptures there would be long moments of silence for the people to meditate on the wonderful and remarkable things that God has done and can do with us, mere mortals.

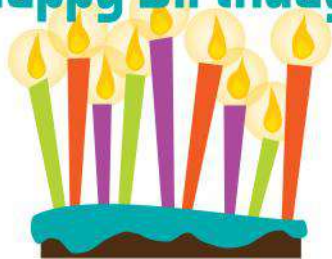
This late night vigil would end with a few choice New Testament scriptures, assurances of God's promise before bells would ring, breaking the solemn silence, and Christians would run to the Church to celebrate the arrival of Sunday and the risen Christ!

This year, we will be offering an Easter Vigil, but don't worry, I'm not asking you to arrive at Church at 9:00 p.m. and stay awake through the night. Instead, we'll be doing a variation on Easter Vigil.

On Easter Sunday, we will be gathering earlier than our usual 10:00 a.m. service, not only to celebrate Easter, but to usher it in with our own little "mini-vigil." We will gather at 7:30 a.m. outside to read some of the Old Testament Scriptures that tell the story of God and Us! There will be moments for quiet meditation as we consider where God has led us, is leading us, and will continue to lead us. This mini-vigil will only be about 45 minutes long (instead of the traditional 4-6 hours long, you're welcome), and once it is done we will have breakfast together as one church in the Fellowship Hall before heading into our 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Service!

This year, our goal is that no holiday be left behind. We might not be celebrating them in the most traditional of forms, but we are pleased to recognize these important days in our faith and acknowledge them in our own special way.

# Happy Birthday!



- 4/5 Dick Noonan
- 4/7 Anne Buie
- 4/10 Wendy Munn
- 4/13 Jennifer Gray
- 4/20 Cliff Smith



*On Easter Sunday we invite you to bring flowers from your garden for the flowering of the cross! Last year's cross turned out beautifully. Let's do it again.*



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

The “One Great Hour of Sharing Offering” will be received during worship on Easter Sunday. Gifts to this offering are distributed among three impactful programs as seen below. Thank you in advance for your generous giving.

### **HUNGER**—Presbyterian Hunger Programs

Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

*Receives 36% of funds raised*

### **DISASTER**—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.

*Receives 32% of funds raised*

### **DEVELOPMENT**—Self-Development of People

Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impacts of these societal ills.

*Receives 32% of funds raised*



Have you ever considered serving as a liturgist, usher, or communion server but didn't know how? If so, please join us for a brief training session!

**Saturday, April 18th at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.**

All who currently serve as communion servers, liturgists, or ushers, are also encouraged to attend, so everyone will have the latest training on current procedures.

## PASTOR'S NOTE



People of the Resurrection,

My lips are sealed...at least until April 5th.

As I write this letter to you, we are currently two Sundays away from Easter. Two Sundays until I get to eat my giant Reese's Easter Egg. Two Sundays until I begin to get text messages from my friends from around the world at the break of dawn saying, "he is risen!" Two Sundays until I stand in worship of Jesus Christ and all that he has done for us and get to utter some very special words that I have sorely missed these last few weeks.

I can feel them calling to me. The inner monologue that goes constantly in my head is taunting me. I hear a chorus begin to sing their verse...

*"The Kingdom of this world is become,  
the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.  
And he shall reign forever and ever.  
King of Kings! Lord of Lords!  
Forever and ever..."*

The voices erupt in harmonious chorus, I can see this mental choir extend their hand, inviting me in, daring me to sing the end of that song! But I shall not. Not yet. Instead I tune their voices to "Were You There" and "Go to Dark Gethsemane." I sit. And I wait. And I pray.

The tradition of removing certain words of praise from worship and our daily lives is a tradition that goes back decades. It got worn out a while ago, but in the last twenty years or so it's made a comeback in the church. It's led to some strange backwards moments with people my age being able to remember doing this all their lives while our parents can't ever remember practicing it while they were young.

I've become rather fond of this tradition over the years. Burying or hiding our "Alleluias" and "Glories" has become a sacred act in the season of Lent, something that sets it apart from ordinary time. That's not to say that I don't feel their absence in our worship service palpably, I do! And that's not to say I dislike singing the alternatives, I don't!

*Continued on next page*

It is only to say that every time I get to that part of the service where a word of praise is usually placed, my heart yearns a little bit more for it week after week. I long to burst into song, to say those precious words that throughout the year lose a little bit of their meaning because we don't often think of what they mean until they're gone.

It's working! This congregational fast that we are participating in as a church and as the Church, it's doing what it's meant to do. It's giving us a greater appreciation for special words whose meaning gets lost in the shuffle. It's giving us space to think, to contemplate, and pray. It's allowing our souls to yearn for something that will arrive in just a few short weeks.

My lips are sealed. I'll resist the urge to mutter or state or even think of the ending to that beautiful chorus I'm craving. I'll resist until that beautiful Easter Morning, when the stone is rolled away, and the sound we make as we utter those precious words once more will be as welcome and beautiful as an angel's chorus.

Peace to you,

Emily



**You're invited!**  
**Saturday May 9th—7:00 p.m.**  
**Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center**

This season Magic of Bronze is pleased to present our story in a look back on the past, a love letter to the present, and glimpse into the future. Hear old favorites the group has loved playing over the years, pop tunes that will have you tapping your toes, and some new hits you're sure to love. We are also excited to premier two new pieces written for and dedicated to Magic of Bronze for our 30th anniversary: "Chronology" and "Threshold." Look for some familiar faces among the ringers: including our pastor, Rev. Emily Wasser and Will Lawrence, Assistant Stated Clerk for CF Presbytery.

Tickets are on sale at the Dr. Phillips Center website:

<https://www.drphillipscenter.org/events/tickets/2026/the-magic-of-bronze>



Although my parents were living in Westfield, NJ, I was born in a hospital in the neighboring town of Plainfield on D-Day, June 6, 1944. I was the second child born almost exactly three years after my order brother and almost exactly three years before my younger brother. I was the middle child sandwiched between two brothers and thus became a real tomboy growing up. At five years of age, my father's company, The Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company, transferred him to their Chicago office and he and my mother bought a house in the suburb of Arlington Heights. When I was seven years old I came down with Polio and was rushed to a hospital in nearby Evanston where I was treated with the only drug that was available at the time, penicillin. Miraculously, I did not have any paralysis because one year later, they came out with the polio vaccine. God was certainly watching over me!

The summer I turned 12 years old and was about to enter the 6th grade, my father made a momentous decision at the age of 40 to leave the world of business and become a Presbyterian minister. This meant moving back to New Jersey so he could attend Princeton Seminary. Upon graduation three years later, he was called to a country church outside of Coatesville, PA where I spent four years in high school. I was accepted at The College of Wooster, a small, liberal arts, Presbyterian College in Wooster, Ohio and began my freshman year in the fall of 1962. Psychology became my major and I began volunteering at a nearby mental hospital, mainly working with autistic children. I met Jim who was also doing volunteer work at the hospital and we became engaged our Junior year. We were married during the summer after graduation and moved into married student housing on the campus of McCormick Seminary in Chicago where Jim had decided to do his graduate work. I worked one year at Chicago State Mental Hospital as a psychiatric social worker and two years teaching second grade in the suburb of Franklin Park. After graduation, Jim served three years in a church in Elk Rapids, MI where our two children were born, and seven years in a large church in Sault Ste. Marie, MI where I helped start a cooperative nursery school and became the teacher.

Realizing that our children never had the chance to really get to know their grandparents who lived in northern NJ, we decided to move east and Jim accepted a call to the Peekskill Presbyterian Church in Peekskill, NY so we could be closer to them. I started taking courses at Western Connecticut State College, got my Master's Degree in teaching and started teaching Kindergarten full time in 1984. Jim decided to take some time off from the ministry and do some writing so we bought a house in Pocono Lake, Pennsylvania. I stayed in a friend's apartment in Peekskill and commuted back and forth to the Poconos until my retirement thirteen years later in 2004. Meanwhile, Jim had gone back into doing interim and stated supply work in churches in the Poconos and nearby New Jersey.

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Jim retired two years after I did and we bought an RV and began spending winters in Florida at an RV park in Clermont. We decided to leave PA in 2010 and move to Plymouth, MA to be closer to our daughter and her family. We kept on being “snow birds” for about ten years and then decided to sell both places and move permanently to Viera, FL on the east coast so we could be near our daughter who moved down to Rockledge after her divorce.

I feel I would be remiss if I didn't mention how important music has been in my life. I have sung in every one of our church choirs as well as The Westchester Community Chorus (we were invited to sing at Carnegie Hall), and the Pocono Choral Society. I enjoy playing the piano and guitar and I played keyboard in a rock and roll band when we wintered in Clermont. I am currently playing keyboard in a new start-up band in my community. I have had a very full and rewarding life and feel blessed in so many ways.

## **CLOTHING AND TEXTILE DRIVE**

The Mission Team here at Pineda Presbyterian Church is inviting our congregation and the surrounding community to come together for a simple but powerful act of generosity. We are partnering with St. Pauly Textile to collect gently used clothing and household textiles to help those in need—both locally and beyond. The drop-off shed for the used items is located on our church grounds.

For the month of April, our goal is to collect 400 bags of donated items such as clothing, shoes, belts, purses, linens, blankets, and curtains. Donating these items keeps usable textiles out of landfills while ensuring they are put to good use by people who truly need them. If we can reach the goal of 400 bags, we will receive \$1,000 from St. Pauly and we have already decided that 100% of the financial proceeds from this collection will be given to our local Meals-On-Wheels program, helping to provide nourishing meals to neighbors who depend on this vital service.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

- ◆ Clean out your closets and linen cabinets
- ◆ Bag your gently used clothing and textiles
- ◆ Donate during the month of April
- ◆ Help us reach our goal of 400 bags

Every bag donated makes a difference—feeding the hungry, helping families in need, and strengthening our community. Thank you for your generosity and for partnering with us to serve others!



# Join us for Pizza & a Movie!

Saturday, April 11th  
at Noon

Featured Film  
"The Hiding Place"

\$5 per person

*Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.*



The Presbyterian Women will host a  
"Birthday Brunch" on Sunday, May 17th  
following worship.

Everyone is invited to attend!

The cost will be \$6.00 per person.

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall  
if you would like to attend.

## FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month the food pantry has assisted 86 neighbors consisting of 292 individuals.  
An average of 139 bags were distributed with a maximum of 148. 17 new families were served.  
You cannot be thanked enough for your faithful generosity!

**Sunday, April 5th—Canned Corn**

**Sunday, April 12th—Pasta Sauce**

**Sunday, April 19th—Peanut Butter**

**Sunday, April 26th—Canned Seafood** (*Tuna, salmon, sardines, etc.*)



## APRIL WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	April 2nd	April 5th	April 12th	April 19th	April 26th
	<i>Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.</i>
	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>Easter Sunday</i>			
<b>DEACON OF THE WEEK</b>		Scott Zinn	Leslie Lyman	Freda Baker	Karen Smith
<b>LITURGIST</b>	Karen Smith	Leslie Lyman	Betty Francis	Elizabeth Bumgarner	Barb Mathewson
<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>	Meg Dalton	Elizabeth Bumgarner			
	John Ellis	Melissa Ketterman			
	Sue Lundgren	Sandy Curry			
		Barb Mathewson			
		Scott Zinn			
<b>USHERS</b>	Ed Walker	Ed Walker	Ed Walker	Ed Walker	Ed Walker
	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith	Cliff Smith
	Herb & Lin Dankmyer	Herb & Lin Dankmyer	Herb & Lin Dankmyer	Herb & Lin Dankmyer	Herb & Lin Dankmyer

Our Fidelity Investment account increased from **\$152,662** to **\$154,668**, in February and the Endowment account had a loss of **\$2,500** for the month.

The operating fund donations were \$42,781 so far this year, which is a little behind for the pledges (\$228,927) this year. We have received an anonymous donation to replace the flooring in the fellowship hall. Before the flooring is replaced, we would like to have the hall painted. If you know a great painter, or would like to help paint, please let us know.



Easter Sunday we will be collecting the special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. Envelopes will be in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

For March, don't forget to give your per capita donation of \$30 per person. Per Capita is paid to Central Florida Presbytery based on the number of people we have on the roles. The church will need to pay the difference between what is collected and what we owe. Please help out if you can by contributing your \$30. Thank you.

*Barb Mathewson*  
Finance, Stewardship & Endowment Chair

## SESSION SOUND BITES

*(March 18th Meeting)*

- ◆ The meeting opened with prayer and devotion from Isaiah 40:31 led by Elder Barbara Mathewson: Trusting in God's strength to rise above our difficulties.
- ◆ Session granted voice at session meetings for 2026 to Moderator of Deacons, Moderator of PPW, and Committee Chairs who are not serving on session.
- ◆ Minutes of the February 25th stated and the March 15th called session meetings were approved.
- ◆ Minutes of the March 15th Ordination and Installation of Officers were approved.
- ◆ Karen Smith has been elected as Moderator of Deacons, effective April 10.
- ◆ Karla Allen, who has faithfully cleaned our sanctuary and fellowship hall for 30 years, is retiring. The Administration and Personnel team hopes to have a replacement on board in early April.
- ◆ Haskell Walker reported on the March Presbytery meeting at Tuskawilla Presbyterian Church.
- ◆ The Mission Team will hold a clothing drive for the St. Pauly's shed in April. If we collect 400 bags of clothing, etc. in April, we will receive \$1,000 from St. Pauly's and will send it to Meals on Wheels.
- ◆ The Facilities team is looking for bids to replace the carpet in Fellowship Hall with vinyl planking and to paint the room before the new flooring is installed.
- ◆ Lunch and a Movie is scheduled for April 11. The movie will be "The Hiding Place", based on the autobiography of Corrie Ten Boom.
- ◆ The Adult Sunday School continues to meet in Sanctuary Room A, reading a chapter of Scripture and discussing it.
- ◆ Session approved combining the Faith Formation and Fellowship committees. They also voted to combine the Worship and Music committee with Technology because they work closely together.
- ◆ Pat Zinn was re-elected as Clerk of Session for the year, and Haskell Walker was re-elected as Treasurer.
- ◆ Elder Melissa Ketterman closed the meeting with prayer.

*NOTE: If you have questions about any of these items, or would like more information, please contact the clerk of session or the appropriate ministry team chair. A list of session members and team chairs is on the Our Team page of the church website.*



***5650 N. Wickham Road, Palm Shores, FL 32940***

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 6:00pm Worship & Tech Team Meeting (Room A)	 <b>MAUNDY</b> <i>Thursday</i> 10:00am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Choir & Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)	 <b>GOOD</b> <i>Friday</i>	
<b>5</b>  <b>EASTER</b> <i>Sunday</i> 7:30am Easter Vigil (Sanctuary) 8:45am Easter Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) 10:00am Easter Worship Service with Communion (Sanctuary) <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i> <i>Offering</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm "Heart Strings" Knitting & Crochet (Fellowship Hall)	<b>8</b> 4:00pm Finance Team (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Lydia Circle (Pat Zinn's home)	<b>9</b> 10:00am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 10:30am Dorcas Circle (Fellowship Hall) 3:00pm Facilities Team (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Choir & Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> 12:00pm Pizza & a Movie (Fellowship Hall)
<b>12</b> 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:30am Administration & Personnel Team (Fellowship Hall)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Mission Team (Room A)	<b>15</b> 6:00pm Session Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	<b>16</b> 10:00am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Choir & Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	<b>17</b> 5:30pm Game Night (Fellowship Hall) 	<b>18</b> 10:00am Training Class for Liturgists, Ushers & Communion Servers (Sanctuary) 
<b>19</b> 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Choir & Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00am Adult Sunday School (Room A) 10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary) <i>5 Cents per Meal Offering</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:30am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00am LAFF - Lunch & Fun Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00am Chair Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Choir & Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)		