



“Can we satisfy the longing in our hearts, even if we are not always sure what that is?”

BOULEVARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Easter

Service of Worship

April 23, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Let us worship God together by considering the advice Mother Theresa gave to her workers, her orphans, and to all of us:

All: “People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway. If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway. What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway. Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway. In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.” *

[This poem was found written on the wall in Mother Teresa’s home for children in Calcutta.]

*HYMN 254 and 626

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” and “As the Deer”

*OFFERING OUR BROKENNESS TO GOD

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Loving God, Mother Theresa’s advice seems so hard, even impossible. Yet have we really tried it? It seems more sensible to do things to impress others, to feel good about ourselves, to stay in our comfort zone, or to consider what others will think of us. We acknowledge that, deep down, this doesn’t really work. Instead, it can make us unhappy, unsatisfied, and even unpleasant sometimes. There must be a better way. So we ask you, God, to please give us the grace to instead start following Mother Theresa’s advice!

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON AND SHARING GOD'S PEACE

All: It's good to be honest about our shortcomings. Every one of us has them. But a cure can't come without first having a proper diagnosis. God only asks us to recognize our shortcomings and then turn back toward God's loving face to know our heavenly Parent forgives and loves us.

*Sung Response 587

"Alleluia" (Celtic Alleluia)

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Alaina Engdahl

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 42:1-2 (pg. 447)

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:1-2 (pg. 939)

SERMON

"What Are We Longing For?"

Rev. Dr. Linda Mercadante

*HYMN 470

"There Is a Longing in Our Hearts"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed Interpreted

Pastor: What do you believe when you confess your faith in "God the Father Almighty"?

All: That God is a God of love, and that God's love is powerful beyond measure.

Pastor: What do you affirm when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as "our Lord"?

All: That having been raised from the dead he reigns with compassion and justice over all things in heaven and on earth, especially over those who confess him by faith; and that by loving and serving him above all else, we give glory and honor to God.

Pastor: What do you believe when you confess your faith in the Holy Spirit?

All: That apart from the Holy Spirit, our Lord can neither be loved, nor known, nor served. The Holy Spirit is the personal bond by which Jesus Christ unites us to himself, the teacher who opens our hearts to Christ, and the comforter who leads us to repentance, empowering us to live in Christ's service.

Pastor: What do you affirm when you speak of "the life everlasting"?

All: That communion with Jesus Christ is eternal life itself. In him we were chosen before the foundation of the world. By him the eternal covenant with Israel was taken up, embodied, and fulfilled. To him we are joined by the Holy Spirit through faith, and adopted as children, the sons and daughters of God. Through him we are raised from death to new life. For him we shall live to all eternity. AMEN

'Presbyterian Study Catechism, Q 7, 31, 54, 87

OFFERING

Offertory

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

Bill Gamble

*Doxology 232

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" verse 4

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

*HYMN 238

"Thine Is the Glory"

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

POSTLUDE

*Please stand, if able

Boulevard welcomes **Rev. Dr. Linda Mercadante**,
Distinguished Research Professor Emerita MTSO, Founder of HealthyBeliefs.org

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Worship Leader: George Ells

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Elder of the Month: LaMar Zigler

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Nursery Care Available for Worship!

The Nursery is available from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. on Sunday Mornings during the worship service. The Nursery is not currently available during the education hour. With more volunteers, we will be able to provide care in the Nursey for the second hour. To volunteer, please contact Sue Harvey (614-216-5884). Thank you for caring for our most precious members.

Attendance for April 16, 2023: 61

STAFF

Pastor:

Music Coordinator: Mary Ann Stephens Office Manager: Jeanette Gonzalez

Preschool Administrator: Mikie Bowles Financial Officer: Yang Wu

BOULEVARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CALENDAR APRIL 2023

04/23) 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00am Deacons Meeting in the Chapel 10:00am Worship: Sanctuary in-person & live-streamed on Facebook. 11:00am Eradicate Systemic Poverty video in chapel			
04/24) Monday 7:30pm Boy Scouts BSA: FH	04/25) Tuesday 7:00pm AA meeting	04/26) Wednesday 9:00am Quilters 111 7:00pm Bells 7:30pm NA meeting	04/27) Thursday 7:15pm Chancel Choir 7:30pm GA: Rm 111
04/28) Friday	04/29) Saturday		
04/30) 4th Sunday of Easter 10:00am Worship: Sanctuary in-person & live-streamed on Facebook.			

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

Date	Member:	Date	Member:
4/05	Hollie Briggs	4/26	Sara Beaber
4/05	Denise Swatsky	4/26	Luke Lobao
4/05	Sally Neff	4/30	Benjamin Richardson
4/10	Grayson Ferris		
4/12	Dan Briggs		
4/12	Thomas Fletcher		
4/24	Kit Stephens		

Birthday Blessings to all!



PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

Prayer asked from:	For:
	Sandy Ferguson, Recurrence of Sarcoma- treatment began 3/15
Debbie & Bill Bell	Debbie's sister, Judi passed away please pray for the family.
Melissa & Michael Schmidt	Michael's sister, Caroline's cancer has returned.
Jan Minton (Woods)	92 year old brother, Dr. H.C.Gurney is now in hospice care.
Kathie Bailey	Brother, Mike, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
Jody Huggins	Daughter-in-law, Pam, who is recovering from back surgery.
	Linda Wilton, injured her hip
	Lisa Faulkner recent hip surgery
	Ken & Judy Pierce's daughter, Teri, will not need chemo, keep in prayer as she moves forward.
Leah Hanesworth	John Long underwent successful live donor kidney transplant surgery on April 14th and is progressing well. A prayer of praise to God for organ donors and gifted medical teams.
	Ian Gilbert, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma
Pat Nicholson	Deanna Nicholson had surgery Friday, March 2, 2023
Merri Bame	Mom, Sue Bame, moved into Memory Care Facility
	Bill & Katy Frase continued health concerns
Tim & Sue Harvey	Dear Friend, Walt, recently diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer
Tim & Sue Harvey	Daughter Jen's dear friend's daughter has a brain tumor at age 13
Charmaine Hamilton	Fred Heald, friend, recuperating from surgery
Leah Hanesworth	Friend, Molly Hughes, has an aggressive form of breast cancer. Also pray for Molly's mother, Bridget and Family
Charmaine & Mike Hamilton	Granddaughter, Amelia Hamilton, who has Friedreich's Ataxia
Tim & Sue Harvey	Devon, friend, has breast cancer
Bonnie Grimm	Bonnie's cousin's husband, John Odum, has Parkinson
Bill Bell	Friend, Terri Randal, cancer has recurred
Charmaine Hamilton	Friend, Karla Holton, treatment for lung cancer
Charmaine Hamilton	Brother, Spencer Schalip, medical concerns
Jim Parks & Grace Parks	Tim Parks, (Jim's son and Grace's brother) Parkinson's disease
Mikie Bowles	Brother, Tim McLane, has health issues
	Terry McFadden, in Allen Oakwood Correctional

PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE LIST

Members:		Members:	
Glenn & Sara Beaber	Willow Brook	Brita Knapp	home
Tom Hayes	The Forum-Assisted Living	Betty Sicking	Home
Norma Kibbey	Westminster-Thurber – Assisted Living		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ERADICATING SYSTEMIC POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

Session members recently affirmed approval for Boulevard Presbyterian Church to become a *Matthew 25 Congregation*. More information will be forthcoming on how Boulevard will take steps to live into the ministry to eradicate systemic poverty. Join us today in the Chapel for a documentary presented by the Faith Development Committee on Systemic Poverty in the United States. Faith Development Committee: Alaina Engdahl, Charmaine Hamilton, and Jill Hooley

COMMUNION FOR OUR HOME BOUND MEMBERS

Please prayerfully consider being a part of this. Two people will team up to go to the homes of our home bound members to serve communion and visit with them. If this is something you haven't tried before, please consider going out in this very safe environment and trying something new. If you are a beginner at this, you will be paired with an experienced server. The visits will take about 2 hours of your time. Those who do it regularly find they are blessed more than they bless! As before, we will provide copies of the day's scripture reading and a brief synopsis of the sermon to be used in this extended communion service. These will be inserted into the full "Extended Communion Liturgy" so that you have an entire script for the visit. Of course, you may choose to use the liturgy as a guide, saying your own prayers and paraphrasing other parts. Please contact Kim Welter, kwelter.200@gmail.com~419-410-0156, to be a part of this very special ministry.

CAN TABS DONATION

Linda Mahoney just delivered another 8.5 pounds of tabs to the Ronald McDonald House. There were rumors that McDonald's had quit accepting the tabs. Which was not true. They appreciated it. Please continue to bring in your tabs.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTING:

Looking for a way to volunteer? The Deacons have Coffee Hour hosting opportunities. Sign up for a Sunday, whenever you are available. Link: <https://tinyurl.com/BPC-Coffee-Hour>. There is also a sign-up sheet in the kitchenette.

DONATE FLOWERS TO BEAUTIFY THE SANCTUARY ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

If you would like to donate flowers to beautify our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings, please pick up and complete the information on the "Offering for Flowers" envelope and either put in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to the church office. You can also donate anonymously and flowers will be ordered for Sundays that have not been designated. Sanctuary flowers are \$50.00