

The little church with a BIG heart



THE RADIANT

Geneva Presbyterian Church

11931 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854

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Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor

Dear friends,

The joy of the Easter season is upon us! The days are becoming longer, winter has turned to spring, and our Lenten journey is complete. This feels like a good time for a reminder that, indeed, Easter is an entire liturgical season and not a single grand Sunday. The Easter season, when we give thanks for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and have our hearts particularly inclined toward the wonders of new life, will last seven Sundays into the middle of May. During these seven weeks we will walk with the Risen Christ, basking in the glory of Easter and living liturgically on the other side of the empty tomb until “the birthday of the Church” on Pentecost.

In this time of celebrating new life, I am particularly mindful that we have crossed the one year mark of the Covid 19 pandemic. One year of lives upended and one year of being cast into a particularly challenging wilderness. We have made it thus far by the hand of God’s grace and by drawing together as a church community. This time has seen the Geneva family grow to include new friends from near and far. We have incorporated new ways of worshipping, being together, and serving as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Now, it’s time for us to think about what comes next. Eventually, there will come a time when this pandemic ends. And as more and more people are choosing to get vaccinated, we are getting closer each day. With the limited return of some Montgomery County Public School students to in-person learning and changes in Montgomery County Covid policies, it feels like we are entering into a new phase of the pandemic.

The Geneva Presbyterian Session has begun conversations on what it will look like for us to re-open for in-person uses of church space, beginning with worship. Session has formed a “Re-opening task force” to develop policies for our church and make recommendations on what next steps might look like.

While there is not a specific timeline for welcoming Genevans back to in-person worship, we are working towards that and will be in communication with the congregation. No matter when we return for in-person worship, we will continue with our live streaming and recording for church services. We will continue forward with our “new normal” which includes making use of helpful technologies to broaden our reach and ministry for the sake of the Gospel.

Another “new thing” God is doing in our midst is the formation of a Disability Ministry Team. This group of about 10 Genevans has been meeting under the umbrella of our Mission Committee to dream and discern how we as a church can reach out in love to neighbors with disabilities, grow as the Body of Christ through those relationships, and become an ever more inclusive church family that celebrates the diversity of God’s creation.

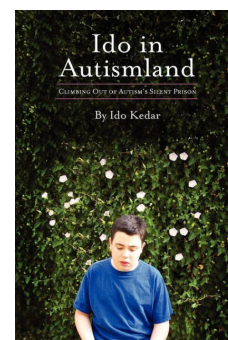
This past year we have been asking “how would God have Geneva Presbyterian serve in mission?” -- not simply be recreating what other churches are doing but by seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance on how we particularly can be disciples in our community. How are we uniquely suited for mission that makes a difference in the world with our time, talent, and treasure? Something amazing is taking shape and the Disability Ministry Team will soon be inviting Geneva into a series of exciting opportunities that includes hands-on service, educational opportunities, and financial giving. Please make a special point to read the Disability Ministry Team’s initial report shared in this issue of the Radiant by Team Co-Chairs Jane Campbell and Allyson McElwaine. One organization I was introduced to recently is CommunicationFIRST, which, according to their website, is “the only nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the civil rights of the more than 5 million people of all ages in the United States who, due to disability or other condition, are unable to rely on speech alone to communicate.” CommunicationFIRST created a five minute YouTube about the experiences of non-speaking autistic individuals. You can find the video by searching for the name of the organization and “LISTEN Movie”.

For those accessing the newsletter electronically, I will include the YouTube link here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7dca7U7GI8>

I will share two quotes from the video, which was created and produced by non-speaking autists. Toward the beginning of the video, the narrator says, “People have a lot to say about us...but they are not listening to us.” Toward the end of the video, he then suggests, “Read our blogs and books, watch our movies and videos.”

In that spirit, I have one book recommendation for you this month: **“Ido in Autismland” by Ido Kedar**. Ido (pronounced “EE-doh”) is a non-speaking autistic person who wrote this book when he was a teenager. It describes his life and experiences as a person who was assumed to be cognitively impaired until a particular therapy provided him a tool to communicate his rich internal life. This book is an instructive gift that welcomes us in to consider the world from new perspectives.



May you be blessed and may you be a blessing to the world in this season of hope and new life.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Patrick

My dear Geneva family,

I hope you have all had a reflective season of Lent. I have found some time to reflect on our past year and all that has happened so far in 2021. As we move towards welcoming Jesus with palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna" I hope you will enjoy some familiar faces, as well as some new ones, singing His praises for our service.

This year we will lift up our voices with "Entrance to Jerusalem" sung by the choir as an introit and sing a musical offering "Blessed One, Messiah!" Both of these selections praise the arrival and recognize the majesty of Jesus. Maundy Thursday we will hear one of my favorite choral pieces "God So Loved the World" by John Stainer, which is based off of John 3:16. The song comes from a larger work called "The Crucifixion" which features a tenor and baritone soloist as well as a choir and orchestra.

Our choir will pre-record two pieces of music for Good Friday, "Who is that man?" which brings to life the pain and suffering of Jesus as he walks through the streets on his way to the hill. We will also sing a beautiful setting of "My song is love unknown". Our tradition at Geneva is to read scripture of the passion and between each reading sing the Taize "Stay with me." We will continue with this connection as this chant allows us to reflect on the weight of His sacrifice.

On the day of Resurrection, we will revive "Crown Him with Many Crowns" with our choir and brass. We will also sing a majestic and joyful introit. Amber will sing wonderful descants in the hymns and we will, for the first time since Lent began, sing "Alleluia." Overall, it is my hope that the music will transcend your experience.

I look forward to the future and hopefully bringing back our choir in the coming months when it is safe. Until then, I hope you will enjoy the blessing that is music to glorify His name!

Ever yours,

Ben Shaver



Geneva Day School is busy, as always! Students bring smiles to our lips, and much joy to our hearts!

We are proud of the many efforts the school has undertaken during the current pandemic period to provide a Summer Program and reopen 8 live classes. Though the school remains free of Covid-19 at this time, we are continuing to implement the many required protocols to remain safe and well. Twenty-four staff are now fully vaccinated, with 3 others awaiting appointments with their insurance or other providers.

Geneva wants to be certain that all who return from Spring Break are virus-free. It is requiring all students and staff who are not yet fully vaccinated to have a PCR test over the break. The school has scheduled this service on the premises for Thursday, April 1 with FiveMedicine, which provides results quickly. Enrollment of students during the current year is greatly reduced in order to comply with state and local Department of Health guidelines. Since January, however, we have enrolled a few more new youngsters, so classes are now full at the 15 person capacity of 13 students with 2 staff.

Teachers have always been creative about providing fun activities which reflect seasons and holidays. Some recent themes included Ground Hog's Day and predicting weather, Valentine's Day and preparing cards and gifts, the Lunar New Year of the Ox and learning about traditions, Presidents' Day and learning about some famous ones, St. Patrick's Day and making Leprechaun traps, and more. Spring with Mother's and Father's Day gift making are typical May themes. The school will hold traditional Earth Days in April and Field Days in May, as well.

The school is currently very involved with registrations and applications for the new 2021-2022 school year. The Office responds to numerous telephone inquiries regarding availabilities and guidelines, provides school tours after the regular school day, and processes enrollment based current limits. A Wait List is established for classes in the event that we can increase numbers or reduce social distancing limits in the future. Our Assistant Director and Registrar, Amanda White, makes this complicated process look easy!

Geneva has also been involved in planning and enrolling students for its appropriate and amazing Summer Program. Currently, all 9 sessions are full with Wait Lists for each should any openings become available. Summer Program Director, Daisy Lizama, has planned weekly themes to include: camping, Hawaii, rainforest, stars and stripes, princesses and pirates, circus, space, farm animals, and the great outdoors.

The Maryland State Department of Education makes it possible for Geneva to participate in various non-public school grant programs. We recently were able to install 11 outside security cameras; the church also installed 5 of its own. New grant projects this year will allow us to repair a faulty pipe in the school kitchen, install a grease drain, replace some class windows and two gutters outside the lobby, and install new flooring in two classes.

The school receives grant funds for new literacy materials, as books and handwriting workbooks, weekly student magazines, and other educational materials. The school also again qualified for a second Federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP) which is being used for staff salaries.

The conclusion to this unusual school year will be at the end of May, with the Summer Program to begin a week later. We appreciate the excellent work of all Geneva staff who have worked extra hard and additional hours this year. They not only instructed their students appropriately in their own class pods, but also provided extra time in their schedules for increased handwashing, wiping tables and chairs, disinfecting toys, wiping down rubber mats, and arranging activities for individual rather than group work. They all deserve a nice break to relax and be refreshed over the summer.

Thank you for your continued prayers for your school. All of your friends at Geneva wish you a lovely spring and Happy Eastertide!

Warm Regards,

Suzanne Funk



Deacons and Fellowship Activities

Welcome to our newest Deacons, Jestina Ricci and Allyson McElwaine! Jestina and Allyson join Rhonda Ricci, Bobbie Maxwell, Rosie Perthel, Ludivine Kom Liapoe and Renee Moloznik to support our Geneva members and friends. Deacons are the "servants" or "caregivers" of the congregation. People have all kinds of needs - they are recovering from surgery, grieving, lonely, ill, or otherwise in a time where they welcome the ministry of care from our congregation. In a very real way, Deacons are the hands and heart of the Church in our ministry of caring.

Deacon Fund

Deacon Funds are used to support individuals or families in financial crisis in terms of monetary donations, purchasing food, helping pay medical or household bills. The funds are also used for the items in the goody bags that have been delivered to our members, blessing bags for our homeless neighbors, gift cards to students during final exams, hosting memorial services, hosting Lenten dinners, sending cards and gift baskets to members needing support, and also the supplies needed for our seasonal craft activities.

Our Deacon Fund has been used a great deal during this pandemic and is getting extremely low. Since we have not been in the Sanctuary the past year, there have been limited donations to this fund. Therefore, I am asking for your generosity to make a tax-deductible donation to the Geneva Deacon Fund, so our Deacons can continue to support our Geneva family. Your gift in any amount will be greatly appreciated to help our church make a brighter future for our members.

If you are able to help this mission, please go to Online Giving with the GivePlus app to donate, or mail your check to Geneva Presbyterian Church, 11931 Seven Locks Rd. Potomac, MD 20854 (designate your check for Deacon Fund). Thank you in advance for your help and support.

Deacon Family Groups

Every Geneva member and friend are included on a Deacon Family Group. Your Family Deacon works with Pastor Patrick to celebrate your joys and support you in times of concern or need. During this time of COVID, the Deacons have been hosting Family Group Zoom meetings to help support communication and fellowship. We have found that it is easier to have 2 or more Family Groups join together for our Zoom meetings. Your Family Deacon should be contacting you in the next weeks to set up a meeting. We hope that you will be able to join us. If you or anyone you know, needs help in joining in the meeting, please contact your Deacon or Renee Moloznik, Deacon Moderator (Rmoloz@hotmail.com)

The Deacon Family Groups are listed below. If you do not see your name and want to be a part of a Deacon Family Group, please contact Renee Moloznik at Rmoloz@hotmail.com

Deacon: Bobbie Maxwell
Bobbie.K.72@verizon.net

Members: Nancy Morse
Maureen Ferguson
Mark & Holly Allen
Terry & Debbie Dunne
Sara & Jim Torrence
Ken & Nan Sprinkle
Andrea Austin
Nancy Rawson
Tom Maxwell

Deacon: Rhonda Ricci
rhondaricci56@gmail.com

Members: Betty Halls
Terry Shima
Paul & Barbara Prosswimmer
Carole Haller
Marie Smith
Elaine Brasted
Rosalie Ruff
John & Patsy Wright
Robert Ricci
Daniel & Jestina Ricci
Ken & Letitia Denaburg
Lisa & Craig Miller
Emmanuel Mbi
Tom & Sara Sadler
Shirley Chow

Deacons: Renee Moloznik
Rmoloz@hotmail.com
Allyson McElwaine
asmcelwaine@gmail.com

Members: PJ & Brent Davis
Sheena Galliani
Juliet & Scott Heimberg
Alice & Rollin Franks
Elaine & Rolf Winch
Robyn & Jeff Alexander
Patrick & Allyson McElwaine
Robin & Jack Kough
Amanda White
Ben Shaver
Tim Sullivan
Suzanne Funk
Sandra Kichefski
Melissa Cutler
Bill & Beth Sherman
Samantha & Andrew Sloan
Eleanor Liu
Pete & Ruth Nunn
Erland & Ellie Heginbotham
Cindy & Jim Kaufman

Deacons: Rosie Perthel
rperthel@hotmail.com
Ludivine Kom Liapoe
ludivinekomliapoe16@gmail.com

Members: Helene Chimba
Francisco & Lucy Fuentes
Flore Kom Liapoe
George & Margo Hunt
Bill & Ema Oen
Heinz Nagel
Veronique Weinstein
Carl Perthel
Toshiko Ota

Deacon: Jestina Ricci
jestinaeroberts@gmail.com

Members: Jane Campbell & Pepe Marin
May Lin Cheong
Margaret Teng
Janelle & Eric Thibau
Scott Brown
Amy He
Linda & Ed Devine
Judy & Jim Stiles
Katie & Jim Harris
Nelidia G. Smith
Betty Lee
Kyla & Vince Lupo
Daniel Ricci

Contact any Deacon or Pastor Patrick for further information or to join our team.

Renee Moloznik	rmoloz@hotmail.com
Ludivine Kom Liapoe	ludivinekomliapoe16@gmail.com
Bobbie Maxwell	bobbie.k.72@verizon.net
Allyson McElwaine	asmcelwaine@gmail.com
Rosie Perthel	rperthel@hotmail.com
Jestina Ricci	jestinaeroberts@gmail.com
Rhonda Ricci	rhondaricci56@gmail.com



Renee Moloznik



Pastor Patrick will be on vacation April 5 - April 11. If you have a pastoral need during this time please contact your Deacon. Many thanks to Sara Sadler for leading worship on April 11!

The Disability Ministry/Mission Committee has been meeting regularly and we are gaining momentum! Our group has been reaching out locally to identify areas of need where GPC can be the hands and feet of Christ in the special needs community. After conversations with both xMinds (The Partnership for Extraordinary Minds), a Rockville group that works to Improve K-12 education for students on the autism spectrum in Montgomery County and the development office at The Ivymount School - we have some solid leads that we are very excited to tell you about.

The Session is being consulted on these plans - and details are still coming together. What we can tell you is that we are working with xMinds and Ivymount to allocate Mission funds that will help identified non-speaking students in Montgomery County have "at home" Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices.

Why we feel called to help in this way: Some non-speaking students have iPads or similar devices (like what Malachi McElwaine uses to communicate) through the school system -- BUT those devices have to stay at school. These students effectively have their ability to communicate ripped away from them every time they leave school. We are interested in becoming "helpers" to those in the special needs community who are 'non-speaking' or 'non-verbal' and who communicate with ways other than vocal language. This particular group of individuals are close to our hearts but unfortunately under-served even within the special needs community. We feel that giving them a means of communication at home that mirrors the device they use at school would be tremendously helpful both for the students as well as for their families and caregivers.

Our second idea - and this one is coming up soon - is to plan regular, small social gatherings for people in the special needs community that would benefit from interaction with others who share similar life situations or stages. One "COVID safe" option would be to use the Geneva playground as a welcoming, safe space for children, their siblings and caregivers to gather in a welcoming and developmentally appropriate setting. Long term, xMinds agreed that Geneva hosting regular, small social gatherings inside the church would also be great when safe. They said they were willing to visit to help us envision how best to use/organize our space for such gatherings.

All that being said, it's not too late to join us. Leadership is emerging, ideas are flowing, and excitement is mounting. If you know or are curious about the state of special education in Montgomery County, and you want our church to become a most welcoming place for folks of differing abilities, we would love to have your voice as part of our ongoing conversations! Please contact Jane Campbell (jane@backinsorts.com) or Allyson McElwaine (asmcelwaine@gmail.com) with questions or ways that you can become involved. Onward and upward folks --- the future is bright and inclusive!



Jane Campbell,
Mission Elder and Co-Chair of the Disability
Ministry Team



Allyson McElwaine,
Co-Chair of the Disability Ministry Team

Dear Geneva Presbyterian Church Friends & Family:

As we enter the Lenten season and holy week approaching, I wanted to start out by mentioning with a token of thanks to our Geneva family for the fantastic involvement and for representing Geneva among our Seven Locks area churches within the Ecumenical Lenten Series bible studies.

We also want to highlight our Easter Week Services:

Sunday, March 28 10:30am Worship – Palm Sunday Virtual Church

Thursday, April 1 7:00pm Worship – Maundy Thursday Virtual Church

Friday, April 2 12:00pm Worship – Good Friday Virtual Church

Sunday, April 4 10:30am Worship – Easter Sunday Virtual Church

These services will be virtual, but we will be hosting and broadcasting our services from the Geneva Sanctuary by and through our fantastic audio and video team (of which I am a part!) Special thanks to Sheri, Jessie, Ken D and Ken S and our Zoom Host Kyla for always providing consistent, dedicated service towards our church.

Musically, we have been enjoying Ben at the piano and organ in sanctuary and cannot wait to hear and see what's in store for holy week!

Looking further ahead, our sanctuary will undergo some cosmetic updates and upgrades, to enclose, secure and upgrade our AV booth area and make it more functional. This project will involve quite a bit of organizing and sorting out. Cabling and wires are fun! Or at least that's what we keep telling ourselves!

As Rev. Patrick takes a well deserved week off following Easter, on the 11th Sara Sadler will be joining us to give one of her final sermons in worship prior to graduating Seminary school and hopefully passing her ordination exams and becoming officially ordained! Geneva is so proud of Sara's journey into ministry and how well she has done with her schooling.



Tom Sadler

Long time Geneva member Dick Sanderson passed away on January 12, 2021. Dick was born on May 11, 1932. He attended the University of Michigan where he earned an Architectural/ Engineering degree. He worked for the Department of the Navy for 42 years. Dick had 3 children Dana (husband Bob), Gary (wife Shari) and Jane who passed away in 2014. Dick also had 4 grandchildren Rebecca, Sarah, Matthew and Joshua. Dick joined Geneva in 1966 . He served Geneva in many capacities from Elder to both Geneva Day School and Geneva Presbyterian Church Treasurer. An avid photographer, Dick was also our Church's photographer. Below are the statements ready by his family at his memorial service.

Dana:

My father was a lot of things to a lot of people. Architect, engineer, church elder, boy scout leader, National Presbyterian Mariner officer, Navy sailor as a young adult so a veteran, and government worker for 40+ years; to name a few. I will now focus on my father as:

The man and his camera. From early childhood I recall annual Christmas preparations including my father taking the family picture (as a youngster it was hard to stay still long enough) in conjunction with the family all helping with the homemade silkscreened Christmas cards. Years later at my wedding, my father came with camera in hand and took pictures throughout the wedding and his pictures turned out better than those of our hired professional photographer. Over the years, my father volunteered his photographer services to his local church. He took numerous pictures at church events which he then displayed on a kiosk at church. He also took portraits of church members and families for the church directory. Over time, he showed developing talents with his photography. During the early years, he utilized his own darkroom and enlarger to produce his pictures. His portfolio at the time included 1000's of slides. During later years, the shift was to digital cameras and computers which he became adept at.

My father was a social introvert (as is our whole family), but as it is said, "a picture is worth a 1000 words" and he took 1000's upon 1000's of pictures and thus millions of unspoken words.

"Lights, camera, action!" My father was a man of action, not just one to think and talk about something, but rather to do, make, and create things. When I bought my first house, I asked him to make me book shelves in the spare bedroom which he did very professionally wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling but on the condition that I take them with me whenever I move.

My father continued to raise tomatoes in his garden long after we children were grown. He then donated his produce to his local church and became known as the "tomato man" there.

But now back to my topic, the man and his camera. Many decades go by; the lights have dimmed, the focus blurred, the shutter closes one last time for both the man and his camera. Good bye father.

Shari

Hi Everyone. I'm Dick's daughter-in-law, Shari. I know my father-in-law is smiling down on all of us right now, just knowing that he brought family together...on Zoom. Family was very important to him and there's nothing he enjoyed more than spending time with his children and grandchildren, except for maybe taking photos of his children and grandchildren. From the time our kids started kindergarten, until they finished middle school, he never missed attending a single Grandfriend's Day. He would also make a point of coming to scouting events whenever his grandchildren were going to receive an award. We often got together on other occasions and always enjoyed the countless holidays spent together playing games, doing puzzles, and feasting on good food. These are all lasting memories we built together, as a family. Even when we visited him, for what we didn't realize would be the last time, he inquired about family: all of us, Dana and her family, Jane, Nancy, his parents, and his brother, Earl. Even though he couldn't remember that some of these people had passed, he remembered that they ALL were important to him. He was just as important to us and we will all miss him.

Gary

Thank you all for coming to help celebrate Dad's life and share our grief with us. I am his son, Gary, the middle of 3 kids. Growing up, I had many fond memories of my dad and I'd like to share just a couple of them with you. I remember dad taking pictures, building things, working in the garden, volunteering at Geneva church, and being involved in scouting. Dad dedicated his time to scouting preparing and participating with most events and campouts. Other scouts commented what a well-respected Scoutmaster he was along with being a great Photography Merit Badge counselor, and a good role model. One of my favorite memories is from 1976, going to Philmont Scout ranch in New Mexico and backpacking for 10 days. We were able to hike to the peak of Mt Baldy at 12,441 feet and see the sunrise. It made me feel like we were on top of the world. In 2014, I was able to go back to Philmont with Matthew and Joshua where we hiked about 75 miles over 10 days. We returned to that same peak, carrying the same American flag, where I stood with my Dad years before. I turned my phone on and was pleasantly surprised that I was able to place a call to my Dad. Though we don't have him with us any longer, his photos captured great memories, and how will always be remembered as a loving and caring father that would take on anything. His memory will live on in all of our hearts forever. We will miss you.

Apr 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01	02	03
				7:00pm - Maundy Thursday Worship	12:00pm - Good Friday Worship	
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
10:30am - Easter Sunday Worship		7:00pm - Deacon Meeting	7:00pm - Bible Study	7:00pm - GDS Board		10am – 12pm Disability Ministry Team Playground Playdate
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30am - Worship			7:00pm - Bible Study			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30am - Worship	7:00pm - Executive Committee		7:00pm - Bible Study			
25	26	27	28	29	30	01
10:30am - Worship	7:00pm - Session		7:00pm - Bible Study			

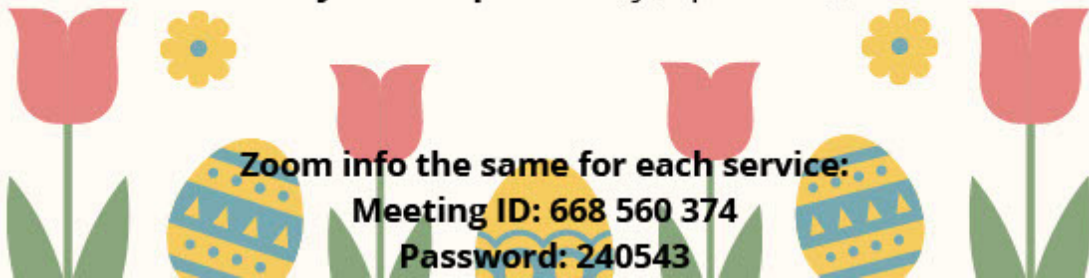
MAY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
			7:00pm - Bible Study	7:00pm - GDS Board	7:00pm - Book Club	
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:30am - Worship			7:00pm - Bible Study		7:00pm - Book Club	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:30am - Worship			7:00pm - Bible Study		7:00pm - Book Club	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:30am - Worship	7:00pm - Executive Committee		7:00pm - Bible Study		7:00pm - Book Club	
30	31					
10:30am - Worship	7:00pm - Session					

A BLESSED EASTER

Celebrate the Easter season with
Geneva Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday Worship - Sunday, March 28th @ 10:30am
Maundy Thursday Worship - Thursday, April 1st @ 7:00pm
Good Friday Worship - Friday, April 2nd @ 12:00pm
Easter Sunday Worship - Sunday, April 4th @ 10:30am



Zoom info the same for each service:

Meeting ID: 668 560 374

Password: 240543



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