Hello Friends,

For me the greatest part of Easter Week is on the third day. The Tomb was empty! Meditate on this: the empty Tomb is the most important miracle ever—it is considered by many the most significant piece of one’s theological journey—for others, it is regarded as the most relevant season of the Liturgical calendar—for all of God’s children the empty Tomb is our hope for the future. The empty Tomb is the lens through which we view all of life. The Apostle Paul’s instructions to the Christians in Corinth echoes these beliefs—“because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into His presence.” (2 Corinthians 4:14)

Let me try to put this in words that will serve as a reminder to those who believe in our Risen Lord. As we take a hard look at our lives at the here and now, what is it about the empty Tomb? For one, the empty Tomb guarantees each of us an ultimate reward of eternal life, that our lives are moving towards a glorious conclusion and one day God will call us out of this broken, mortal world and into His eternal glory where sin and suffering are no more. Think about this, the empty Tomb inspires us to say and think and do what is right regardless of the situation we find ourselves in. The empty Tomb assures us that God will win—His truth will prevail—His plan will triumph and sin will be defeated. Finally, the empty Tomb gives us reason to always be grateful. You see, different from anything we have ever earned, each of us has been called and welcomed into the most thrilling story ever and blanketed with a future of eternal joy and peace.

So, let’s all agree that as we take up our cross and walk with our Lord and Savior and no matter what kind of day we are having or what sort of curve ball life throws us that we view our lives through the lens of the empty Tomb.

Easter Egg Hunt and Cookout – is scheduled for Saturday, March 31st, 2018 starting at 1:00 p.m. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office and let us know if you plan on attending and if you plan on bringing family and/or friends. Hamburgers, hot dogs and all the fixings. We may even have a special visitor (I believe he has long ears and a fluffy tail.) We also need your donations of plastic eggs or candy for the eggs. Please leave them in Fellowship Hall by the Easter Egg sign-up sheet.

From our Mission Council – don’t forget this Easter Sunday is One Great Hour of Sharing. It is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Giving envelopes and brochures will be part of the inserts in this Easter Sunday’s Order of Worship. To God be the Glory!

This Easter Sunday (01 APR 2018) we will be reading from Psalm 118: 1-2 and 14 - 24 and the Gospel According to John chapter 20, verses 1-18. I will be proclaiming God’s Word in my sermon entitled. “Christ is risen indeed!”

Outdoor Wooden Cross – Easter Sunday we will adorn our Outdoor Wooden Cross with flowers in celebration of our risen Lord. Please bring any homegrown or store-bought flowers for our annual ritual. If you will remember from last year it truly was a colorful thing of beauty. “He is risen indeed!”

Holy Week Celebrations - This year we continue our wonderful custom of partnering with our brothers and sisters from First Baptist Church of Commerce and First United Methodist Church of Commerce during Holy Week. The tradition continues; Holy Week Services are as follows: Maundy Thursday Service with communion (March 29th) at First Baptist Church of Commerce at 7:00 p.m., Good Friday Service (March 30th) at Commerce Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m. and Sunrise Service (April 1st) on the front steps of First United Methodist Church of Commerce at 7:00 a.m. (Sunrise Service will be moved inside if the weather dictates.)

Almighty God tells us to be still in His presence, even though we may feel the walls closing in on us. We all have a list of things we need to do each day, but, friends, nothing is more important as spending time with God. You see, while we are in God’s presence He is doing His best work and transforming us by the renewing of our hearts and minds (Romans 12: 2). If we hedge and short change our time with God because we “have other things to do,” we risk giving in to temptation and starting down sinful paths and losing the bounty God has planned for us.

You see, folks, when Almighty God is the center and priority of our lives and the one passion of our hearts, we are safe and secure from the danger of developing a reverence for persons and things. As we patiently wait in the presence of our Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ, let us enjoy the greatest gift of all—Christ lives in each of us and this is the assurance that we will share in His glory. (1 Colossians 1: 27)
YOUR SESSION AT WORK

Stated Session Meeting - March 11, 2018
(Complete Session Minutes are in the office for anyone to read.)

Treasurer’s Report: In the absence of Brad Bishoff, Jeff Blair reviewed the church Balance Sheet.

Clerk’s Report: A note of thanks from Thornwell was received. A letter of request of transfer of membership for Kathryn Brantley was sent.

Ministry Reports:
Building and Grounds: The chair, Russ Fletcher, reported that painting on the outside is well underway. 150 bales of pine straw were spread. Weeds and brush were cut back. It was requested and approved to have Terry Riles clean the carpets in the sanctuary for $670. It was approved to require any event at CPC that included food being catered must be served from the kitchen in a serving line format. This would simplify food distribution and minimize disturbance during clean up. It would also provide more space for more people to sit comfortably.
Congregational Care & Fellowship: The chair, Donna Greene, reported the meal at the UGA Presbyterian Student Center was a success. Plans are being made for a Seder dinner on March 20, 6:00 p.m. The PW will be preparing the Lenten Lunch for Holy Week. The Easter Egg Hunt will be March 30 at the Cain’s residence.
Education: The Chair, Kay Coots, reported the turnout of the Youth Group for the iServe food distribution was a great success. She is looking into hosting a fundraiser to sponsor a food truck for iServe.
Mission & Witness: The chair, Linda Foster, requested that CPC hold a car show on Saturday, August 4, followed by a cruise into downtown Commerce. She also requested CPC hold a fundraiser to benefit Club 180 in Cumberly, KY to help them purchase toilet paper, paper towels, Capri Sun, and other needed items. An additional request was made to begin planning to provide meals for the struggling people in Commerce around Easter 2019. All these requests were approved.
Personnel: The Chair, Charlotte Blair, reported that updated job descriptions have been shared with staff except for the custodian.
Stewardship: The Chair, Melanie Kress, reported that pledges towards the Organ Debt Reduction Fund and the Boys & Girls Club are going well.
Worship: The Chair, Charlotte Blair, requested that any remaining funds from the Organ Fund after that debt has been met be utilized to purchase new choir robes.
Pastor’s Report: Jeff Cain presented the following items:
Next Stated Meetings – Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at Athens Korean. Those attending the May meeting are: Jeff Cain, Others TBA.
Playground – Jeff is working on putting a package together for grant money now that we have quotes.
Capital Campaign Projects - The new doors have been ordered and a target date for installation is on or about March 23, 2018.
NE GA PW Seminar – This event will be at CPC on March 17, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch is included. CPC’s Presbyterian Women will be hosting 80 to 90 women from the NEGA Presbytery.
Organ Recital – Music Director Geneva Overbaugh will give a recital on the organ on March 14, 2018 starting at 7:00 p.m. following Family Night Supper.
Seder Meal – The meal is March 20, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. The deadline to sign up is Thursday, March 15.
Holy Week – CPC will host the Tuesday Luncheon March 27, 2018. Reverend Fritz Bogar will be the guest speaker. CPC will also host the Good Friday Service on March 30, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt – This year’s event is Saturday, March 31, 2018 at the Cain’s residence. The hunt will start at 1:00 p.m.
Presbyterian General Assembly – The 223rd General Assembly is June 16 through 23, 2018 in St. Louis, MO.
Club 180, Cumberland, KY – Jeff presented the suggestion that a work detail from CPC travel to Kentucky between Sunday May 20 and Thursday, May 24, 2018. The focus of this trip is to “Adopt a bunk room.” Work is to include painting, curtains, flooring, etc. We are to bring our own food. $15.00 a night, materials are purchased locally to benefit the local economy. Details to follow.
Easter Lilies – Order forms for Easter Lilies will be included in the next two Sunday’s bulletins. The cost is $15 per lily. The lilies are to adorn the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Deadline to order is Wednesday, March 21, 2018.
Book of Order Moment – Jeff guided Session through the Sexual Misconduct Policy in The book of Order, Section G-3.0106. He reminded all members that the church’s policy MUST be signed every year and that the signed document is included in the church’s records.
Darkness to Light Training – Jeff asked Ruling Elder, Linda Foster, if she would like to host the training for the church. Linda offered to do so. Date is to be announced.
Geneva Overbaugh – Geneva’s last Sunday will be April 29, 2018. Michael Collier has agreed to Temporary Music Director/Organist/Pianist starting Sunday, May 5, 2018 and working through the summer. Charlotte Blair made the request for Michael Collier to act as the church’s Temporary Music Director/Organist/Pianist beginning on Sunday, May 5, 2018. Session approved the request without dissent.
Old Business
Jeff Cain shared that he is working on the Corporate Resolution.

New Business
It was approved for Anna Keith Whitaker to use the fellowship hall for Saturday, September 29, 2018 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Requests Via Email:
Three bids were received for the exterior improvements of CPC. The following items were included and put out for bid:
- Pressure wash entire building, windows, porticos and metal roof
- Caulk all windows and doors
- Paint all windows and doors to match existing color
- Paint all metal roofing, metal cross on roof and metal equipment on roof to match existing color
- Paint the three metal crosses outside and inside
- Sand, stain and seal one exterior entry wood door
- Paint all wood under both porticos

M&M Handyman - $7,250.00
D&S Contractor - $8,675.50
David Bergen - $6,600.00 (For an additional $625.00 he will pressure wash our sidewalks for a total bid of $7,225.00.) David’s basic bid of $6,600.00 also includes replacing the section of interior roof paneling missing from a previous roof repair in the Sanctuary. Brad Bishoff has been briefed.
Request your approval to go with David Bergen who is prepared to get started on Monday, 19 FEB 2018, weather permitting. He calculates taking up to a week and a half to complete. David has done extensive interior and exterior work for Bill Kress. Blessings, Jeff Cain

It was approved for a Mr. Christian Poppell to be our Supply Pianist for our Sunday Worship Service on 04 MAR 18 while Geneva is out of town that weekend.
Men’s Night Out
6:00 p.m.

1st Monday of April (2) at Sliced on Elm
3rd Monday of April (16) at Sonny’s Barbeque

Family Night Supper
April 11, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.
Catered by Commerce Country Café
$7 per person
($21 max per family with children under 10.)

Menu
Ham, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Rolls, and Peach cobbler, Tea and Coffee

Sign-up in Fellowship Hall

5th Sunday Lunch

Don't forget! Don't forget!

5th Sunday Potluck Lunch will be Sunday, April 29th! Please bring your favorite dish as we will gather after worship, eat and have lots of fun and fellowship!

 Continued from page 1.

Folks we have arrived at The Cross of our Lord and Savior. I hope to see our entire church family on this Easter Sunday and while you are at it, bring a family member or friend to be a part of the most wonderful miracle ever. By the way, tell your family and friends that CPC is just Good, Basic, Church – Godly, Biblical, Christian.

Jeff

“The Lord has risen indeed!
Luke 24: 34

Presbyterian Women’s Circle Meeting

The PW Circle will meet on April 9, at 10:00 a.m. Lynn Harrison will lead Lesson 8 from "Who is Jesus" and Irma Johnson will bring refreshments. Come join us!!

Single & Single Again Luncheon

Our women’s group will meet for our monthly luncheon on Sunday, April 15 after worship. The meal will be beef tips with rice, seven layer salad, corn casserole, dessert, rolls, tea and coffee and will cost $5. The “Family Background” discussion will continue.

JAMMERS
(Jubilee Adult Ministries)

We will meet on Wednesday, April 25 at 11:30 a.m. for a covered dish lunch. Our speaker is our very own Linda Foster. All seniors, 55 and older men and women, are invited to come.

Empty Pockets
Sunday April 1, 2018

On Sunday, April 1, we will “empty our pockets” for the Jackson County Boys & Girls Club. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for fundraisers for our 2019 goal.

Banks-Jackson Food Bank

On Sunday, April 15 bring canned fruit, vegetables and peanut butter. You may place your items in the wicker basket in the Narthex. Monetary donations are welcomed. Make checks payable to CPC and place in the offering plate.

Men’s Fellowship Breakfast

Men’s Fellowship Breakfast hosted by First United Methodist Church is Sunday, April 29 at 8:00 a.m. All men are encouraged to attend the community breakfasts.
SESSION 2017-2018

Jeff Cain - Moderator
Jeff Killip - Clerk of Session
Brad Bishoff - Treasurer, Personnel, Stewardship

Council Assignments
Charlotte Blair: Worship Chair; Personnel Chair
Russ Fletcher: Building & Grounds Chair
Donna Greene: Congregational Life & Fellowship Chair
Jackie Bishoff: Congregational Life & Fellowship
Melanie Kress: Stewardship Chair; Education
Jeff Killip: Officer Nominating Committee Chair
Kay Coots: Education Chair; Personnel
Linda Foster: Mission & Witness; Stewardship
Willy Utrilla: Building & Grounds

March Volunteers

Ushers & Greeters
April 1 & 8
Bob & Sandra Friedlander
Randy & Natalie Pinson

April 15, 22, & 29
Jeff & Paytton Coots
Susan & Tyson Pinson

Elders Serving Communion
Charlotte Blair, Captain
Melanie Kress
Kay Coots
Linda Foster

Monthly Elder on Call
Charlotte Blair

We are a church where love is more than a word.

To all volunteers:
Thank you for serving our church!

Sunday Beadle Counters Acolyte Child Reader
1 Linda Foster Donna Greene Brooke Fletcher Bryce Fletcher
8 Linda Foster Linda Foster Sydney Utrilla Tyson Pinson
15 Kay Coots Jeff Killip Brooke Fletcher Bryce Fletcher
22 Kay Coots Melanie Kress Sydney Utrilla Tyson Pinson
29 Willy Utrilla Kay Coots Brooke Fletcher Bryce Fletcher
Who’s Praying Today?
In addition to our prayer partners, the following people pray for each of us on the day of the month indicated.

April

1. Linda Potts
2. Jeff and Debbie Killip
3. Carter and Mary Smisson
4. Anna Keith Whitaker
5. Nancy Owens
6. Aimee Fletcher
7. **NEED A VOLUNTEER***
8. Randy Pinson
9. Natalie Pinson
10. Lynn Harrison
11. Bob and Sandra Friedlander
12. Kristy Cowart
13. Barbara Bender
14. Brad and Jackie Bishoff
15. Jeff and Charlotte Blair
16. Irma Johnson
17. Clay and Heather Hobbs
18. Linda Foster
19. Willy and Susan Utrilla
20. Donna Greene
21. Joan Burnesom
22. Marilyn Sanders
23. Jeff and Kay Coots
24. Jeff and Trina Cain
25. Val Rubin
26. Robert and Pat Ellis
27. **NEED A VOLUNTEER***
28. Bob and Donna Sosebee
29. Kathy Evans
30. Peggy Deruelle

**If you would like to volunteer, please call the church office at 706-335-3282.**

Those Who Need Prayer

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brad Bishoff</th>
<th>Robert Ellis</th>
<th>Bob Sosebee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carter Smisson</td>
<td>Ken Deruelle</td>
<td>Rebecca Dixon</td>
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<td>Joan Burnesom</td>
<td>Pam Coble</td>
<td>Danny Camp</td>
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<td>Linda Ward</td>
<td>Candy Romines</td>
<td>Marnie Weis</td>
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<td>Susan Doyle</td>
<td>Linda Conner</td>
<td>Cynthia Gregg</td>
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<td>Theresa Fry</td>
<td>Mike Garth</td>
<td>Rhonda Holder</td>
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<td>Olivia Slaughter</td>
<td>Lisa Brock</td>
<td>Doug McIntosh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Cartledge</td>
<td>Lynard &amp; Alyssa Elrod</td>
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<td>Lee &amp; Kathryn Brantley</td>
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<td>Anne &amp; Carl Coleman</td>
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<td>G.W. &amp; Norma Ward</td>
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Homebound / Assisted Living

Annie Ruth Snelling,
Ruth Crosby
Betty Blair

Brighten someone’s day by calling or sending a get well/thinking of you/miss you card to an absentee, shut-in or homebound person this month. Let them know they are loved and missed by their CPC family.

April Birthdays

- Bo Cain 9
- Charlotte Blair 12
- Cary Foster 15
- Pam Smisson 16
- Marilyn Sanders 19
- Tim Pittman 23
- Bob Roller 23
- Mary Allen 26
- Annette Cartledge 27

In Service for Our Country

We ask that our congregation be in prayer for all our servicemen and women, including special prayers for those who have a family member or friend at Commerce Presbyterian Church.

Clay Hardy - Germany
May there be peace on Earth!

The deadline for articles for the *CPC Word* Newsletter May 2018 edition is **Tuesday, April 17**. This includes council meetings and anything that needs to be listed on the monthly calendar. You may leave a note on Miriam’s desk or if you prefer, email your information to:
commercepres@windstream.net.

Financial Reports

**General Fund YTD**

February 2018

- Income $34,252
- Expenses $30,387

**Building Fund YTD**

February 2018

- Income $2,501
- Expenses $ -0-
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<th>Sun</th>
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| **1** Easter Sunday  
Empty Pockets Sunday  
Sunday School 9:45 - 10:30  
Choir Rehearsal 10:15 - 10:30  
Fellowship 10:30 - 11:00  
Worship & Communion - 11:00  
**Birthday Celebration** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** |
| **8**  
Sunday School 9:45 - 10:30  
Choir Rehearsal 10:15 - 10:30  
Fellowship 10:30 - 11:00  
Worship - 11:00  
**Session Meeting** | **9**  
PW Circle  
Meeting 10:00  
Den Meeting 7:00 | **10** | **11**  
Family Night  
Supper 6:00  
Choir Rehearsal 6:30 | **12** | **13** | **14** |
| **15** Food Bank Sunday  
Sunday School 9:45 - 10:30  
Choir Rehearsal 10:15 - 10:30  
Fellowship 10:30 - 11:00  
Worship - 11:00  
**Single & Single Again Luncheon** | **16**  
Men’s Night  
Out 6:00  
Den Meeting 7:00 | **17** | **18**  
Youth Group 6:00  
Choir Rehearsal 6:30 | **19** | **20** | **21** |
| **22**  
Sunday School 9:45 - 10:30  
Choir Rehearsal 10:15 - 10:30  
Fellowship 10:30 - 11:00  
Worship - 11:00  
**PACK Meeting 7:00** | **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** | **28** |
| **29**  
Men’s Breakfast 8:00 @ UMC  
Sunday School 9:45 - 10:30  
Choir Rehearsal 10:15 - 10:30  
Fellowship 10:30 - 11:00  
Worship - 11:00  
**5th Sunday Luncheon** | **30** |