

Long Beach Presbyterian

BEACON

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The Origins of Easter

In recent Pastor's Corners I have discussed how the Church was slow in incorporating Advent, Christmas and Lent into its calendar. The same is true of Easter. That seems astonishing since Easter is the biggest proclamation of the Christian faith. So, here is the story in brief.



The introduction of Easter Sunday seems to have been nonexistent until around AD 135. When it did appear as a day it was not in Rome or Western Europe, it began in Palestine. It likely occurred to the early Church to make a separation between the Jewish celebration of Passover and Easter to make Easter something that was distinctly Christian. Around AD 155 the Church leader Father Polycarp went to Rome in part to persuade the Bishop of Rome, not yet the Pope, not to switch Passover to Easter Sunday. It should be no surprise that early Christians celebrated Passover since many early Christians were Jewish. What is interesting is that over time those who claimed to keep the Passover on Sunday switched it to a resurrection holiday, commonly called Easter.

In AD 325 the Council of Nicæa (remember we declare our faith by using the Nicene Creed on the first Sunday of every month) ruled that Easter Sunday would be celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the full moon which came after the vernal equinox. For this reason Easter is a moveable feast day in the Church occurring anywhere from March 22 to April 25 every year.

How we got the name Easter is unclear but interesting theories abound. One of these theories is that Easter is derived from Eostre, a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility. This would also account for the early Church's need to baptize spring fertility celebrations making the spring season a Christian event.

What we know for sure is that Easter is an entire season in the Christian church year; it is not a single day observance. The Lenten season is the 40 days minus Sundays leading up to Easter. The week preceding Easter is called Holy Week and includes Maundy Thursday which commemorates Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Maundy is an Anglo French word meaning commandment. This is when Jesus

gave the new command, "to love one another even as I have loved you." Good Friday honors the day of Jesus's crucifixion, and Holy Saturday focuses on the transition from death to resurrection. Then we have Easter Sunday and following that Eastertide which includes Jesus's ascension into heaven.

Why all of this? As Protestants we tend to not see the big picture and the beauty of the whole season like the drama of radical hospitality on Maundy Thursday where Jesus feeds even his betrayer, the crucifixion reminding us that suffering is the cost of love and death the price of living, and the resurrection where we remember that just when we think all is lost, hope comes leaving the tomb empty.

Faithfully,



Vicki Falks – 1st
Linda Osburn – 7th
Judy Sawyer – 7th
Sally Boulay – 8th

Charles Holland – 12th
Katherine Justice – 15th
Robert Osburn – 30th



SPRING FORWARD!

Change Your Clocks March 10





If you shop on Amazon.com you can also generate donations to Long Beach Presbyterian Church at no cost to yourself. All you have to do to get started is go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/64-0535185> (and sign into your Amazon account if necessary) to set us as your selected charity. The program uses your existing Amazon account and you simply have to start at smile.amazon.com instead of just amazon.com. Amazon will then donate .5% of your eligible purchases to the church on a quarterly basis. In addition from March 12th through 31st Amazon will TRIPPLE the donation to 1.5% of your *first* eligible purchase.

If you regularly use the Amazon app on your smartphone to shop you can continue to do so but when it's time to Check Out, switch to a browser either on a computer or use the browser on your smartphone and go to SMILE.amazon.com to check out. If you check out using the app on your phone no donation will be generated.



For Lent we set a goal of increasing our donations to the Long Beach Community Food Pantry to have at least 40 items each week and so far the response has been tremendous. Please keep up the good work!

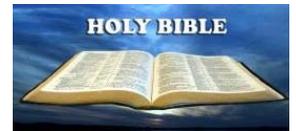
Needed items include but are not limited to peanut butter, jam, rice, dried beans, stews, canned tomatoes, baby foods, snacks, fruit juice, raisins, soda crackers, cereal, tea, coffee, baking items, flour, honey, salt, pepper, spices, sugars, ketchup, mustard, relishes, spaghetti sauce, dry pastas, canned meat, canned fish, canned fruit, canned vegetables, soups, puddings, cake and cookie mixes, cheese whiz/Velveeta, macaroni and cheese, diapers and formula.



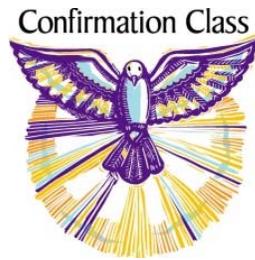
Please remember the following in your prayers:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Barnett Family | Matthew |
| Boswell Family | Tom, Regina |
| Cono Caranna & Family | & Isaac McCarty |
| Corcoran Family | Jamie |
| Alice Gaston | Ken Pell |
| Billie Holzweissig | Peterman Family |
| Marta Halliburton | Ramsay Family |
| & Family | Mikey Sawyer |
| Alan Harlan | Becky Schruoff |
| Joe Holloway | Stacey Stone |
| Cheri Jung | Mary Westmoreland |

Our readers for the month of March are:



- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 4 th – Keith Cox | 18 th – Linda Osburn |
| 11 th – Bill Blackman | 25 th – Terry Dill |



Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class has been meeting since February 4th and will continue through March 25th. We have six people in the class and the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018 during the worship service.



Please take a moment to welcome Judy and Andy Sawyer as our two newest members. They were both received into membership by the Session on Sunday, February 18th and we are happy to have them back home.



Holy Baptism

On Palm Sunday (March 25th) Michelle and Robert Thomas Jr. will be presenting their son Robert Thomas III for the Sacrament of Baptism.



Good Friday – March 30, 2018

This year we will be holding a special presentation of **The Way of the Cross** at 1:00 pm on Good Friday in the church sanctuary. It will be preceded by a Crawfish Étouffée lunch at Noon in McInnis-Wharton Hall. For those who don't eat crawfish we will have red beans available. Lunch will be \$5 with children under 10 free. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. Please indicate how many will be in your party for Crawfish and how many for Red Beans. We must know how many are coming by Wednesday the 28th to buy the food.



On Easter Sunday we will again be displaying a Resurrection Cross in front of the church building. We ask that everyone bring one or more flowers with them on April 1st and add them to the cross in front of the church before coming inside for the Easter Worship Service.



Please join us after worship on Easter Sunday (April 1st) for our Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt. At the same time we will host a special after-church Fellowship celebrating both Easter and the **109th Anniversary** for Long Beach Presbyterian Church.



We are currently in the process of creating a new Church Photo Directory which will include both Members and Regular Attenders. As a part of this process, Vicki Falks has been taking photographs of everyone. There is no cost to have the photos taken and she will happily send you the digital file so that you may have copies printed anywhere you like. We have already completed two sessions after church on Feb. 25th and March 4th and we are planning at least one more session after worship on Easter Sunday.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural and human-caused disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. We will be taking up this special offering on Palm Sunday (March 25th) during the Children's Sermon. Those who wish to donate before then are asked to place their donation in one of the envelopes provided in the pew book racks and drop it in the collection plate.



Craft and Arts at the Farmer's Market

Arts and Crafts will be on display at The Farmer's Market in Long Beach, Saturday, April 8, 2018, from 8 am until noon. The Farmer's Market is located on the 4th street side of the Town Green. Items on display include jewelry, original paintings and drawings, and crafts of all kinds.



The Women's Circle Homeless Outreach Project was gratefully received by the clients at King's Kitchen. They will be continuing with the project going forward. The Women's Circle meets monthly at 9:30 a.m. in the church dining room on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.



MADD HATTER PHOTOGRAPHY BY KELLY CORBIN

In an attempt to generate a little more income to offset church expenses and also to put more of our facility back into beneficial use we have rented Room 10 to a local photographer. She will be using the room as studio space. Please check out her Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/MaddHatterPhoto> for more information and to contact her if you would like to use her services.



Session

- In February we collected a total of \$488.15 for our Outreach offering which was divided between Long Beach Outreach, Rebekah's House, and the Women's Circle Homeless Outreach project.
- Ken Pell is back in Memorial Hospital. Please pray for him and his family.
- We have signed the lease with Kelly Corbin, a photographer who operates as Madd Hatter Photography. Kelly will be using Room 10 as a studio for her business.
- The Christian Education Committee reported that new Sunday School materials have been ordered for the Youth Sunday School Class. They are also looking into the possibility of sponsoring an "outside" activity for the young people in our congregation.
- The decision was made to re-key the exterior doors to the church and fellowship hall since we had no idea how many keys were out there. New keys will be given out on an as-needed basis and must be signed for.
- On February 8th we discovered a blocked sewer line serving the rear part of the building. A section of the terracotta sewer line had to be removed and was replaced with new PVC pipe. The total cost was \$1,149.71.
- We are starting to notice several small new roof leaks around the building and a few existing leaks that are growing. The Property Committee is looking into our possible options for repair.
- The church mission statement was updated and set to: "Reaching up to God, Reaching out to others."
- The next Stated Session meeting will be on Sunday March 18, 2018.

Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
January 2018	\$ 5,288.16	\$ 5,283.10	\$ 5.06
YTD 2018	\$ 5,288.16	\$ 5,283.10	\$ 5.06



Find us online at
<http://LBPCUSA.org>

And our Facebook page at
<http://Facebook.com/LBPCUSA>.

You can view our Facebook page even if you don't have a Facebook account but, if you do have one, click the button to be notified when we post updates.



PLEASE send us information to include in the Beacon

- By email: Lbpcusa@outlook.com
- By hand: Place in the collection plate at Sunday Worship.
- By phone: Leave a message on the church answering machine at 228-863-7633.
(Phone messages are checked on Saturdays)



To receive the Beacon by email, please send a request including your name and email address to Lbpcusa@outlook.com. Please note that this will be maintained as a private email list and only used for Long Beach Presbyterian Church communications.