

First Presbyterian Church 2017 Lenten Devotional  
**“Building the Church, Building the Faith”**

**Holy Week**

**Day 35--Monday, April 10--Mark 6:2-3**

*“On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, ‘Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?’ And they took offence at him.”*

As we watch the builders do their work at the church, it is good to remember that Jesus was a carpenter. Ask Jesus to build up your faith this Holy Week.

**Day 36--Tuesday, April, 11--Luke 14:17-18**

*“At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my apologies.’”*

During construction it is easy for the church to get wrapped up in the business of the church—and neglect the opportunity to dine with Jesus. How can you help the church to remember Jesus in the midst of our construction project?

**Day 37--Wednesday, April 12— Psalm 118:22**

*“The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.”*

As we approach Good Friday, let us remember that Jesus experienced rejection—yet it was out of that rejection that he built the church, of which he is the cornerstone. May you find ways to turn your own moments of rejection into opportunities to proclaim the Gospel.

**Day 38—Maundy Thursday, April 13--I Peter 2:5**

*“like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house,”*

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus left the church in the hands of his disciples—the “living stones” that built the church. How can you be a “living stone” that builds the church today?

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**Day 39—Good Friday, April 14--II Corinthians 5:1**

*“For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”*

On Good Friday, Jesus’ “earthly tent” was destroyed. But his death paved the way for that heavenly building that God has promised to all of us. Thank God for this wonderful gift.

**Day 40--Saturday, April 15--John 20:24-25**

*“But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’”*

Nails are used in building a church. They were also used to crucify Jesus. On this Holy Saturday, let us consider the ways that people abuse the good gifts of God and bring cruelty on others—and remember how God uses even the cruelty of human beings to bring about salvation.

**Easter Morning: Sunday, April 16--John 2:18-21**

*“The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the temple of his body.”*

On the third day Jesus rose from the Dead. This is the “construction project” that matters the most. Let us all celebrate Christ’s resurrection this day—Alleluia!

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The Season of Lent is over. The glory of Easter Morning has arrived. However the church’s building project is just beginning. Continue to pray for the successful completion of the project—and use this devotional and the scriptures listed as a starting point for your continued growth in Christ.

- The First Presbyterian Church Worship Committee