

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3208 Exposition Boulevard

Austin, TX 78703

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www.wpcaustin.org

Connections @ Westminster

April 4 - 18, 2010

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Weekly Word

Triduum: A space of three days.

Dear saints,

As you read this issue of *Connections*, and scan through its pages, you will know that we are well into Holy Week – and that Easter is just around the corner. This week is the week of all weeks in the Christian year, beginning first with Palm/Passion Sunday, then moving through the Three Days to Easter and Christ's promised resurrection. It is tempting to jump directly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, forgetting about Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, his trial and death. But, it is the space of three days – and what happens during that time – that makes the Easter celebration more real and alive. As Peter Mazar says so well:

The first day of the Triduum, from Maundy Thursday sunset to Good Friday sunset, is the sixth day of creation, when God formed us from clay and breath. In dying the Lord Jesus fell asleep, like Adam, that we might be formed from his own body, like Eve. Jesus completed the new creation. On this day we wash each other's feet in tender humility. We fast as if we were again in paradise. And we come to the holy cross as if it

were Eden's tree of life. **Join us on Maundy Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m., as we gather to celebrate the Lord's Supper and to wash one another's feet, remembering Jesus' commandment to love and serve one another.**

*The second day of the Triduum, beginning Good Friday sunset, is the Sabbath. In burial the Lord Jesus rested, and we rest in him. But this day is also an image of the timelessness before time began. In death the Lord Jesus entered the "formless void," the utter nothingness before creation. On this day we continue our fasting with the anxiety of separated lovers. We keep watch, learning the lessons of restfulness, silence and darkness. We reserve this day, unique in all the year, to do nothing at all. **Return on Good Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. as we descend into darkness, and as we hear once again the scriptures that tell of Jesus' crucifixion and death.***

*The third day of the Triduum, beginning Holy Saturday sunset, is a great surprise. Light is kindled in darkness. Order is born from chaos. Life puts death to death. The rainbow appears and the Red Sea opens. Daniel is delivered from the mouths of lions. God's people are gathered in. And a slaughtered lamb rises to become our good shepherd. That's why we make this night shine like day. We tell our best scriptures and sing our favorite psalms. We witness resurrection in our very midst as the newborn children of God rise from the waters of baptism, and are led to partake of the Lord's Supper. As the darkness of this night passes over into dawn, our Paschal Triduum – our three-day Passover – is accomplished, and irresistible Easter overwhelms the world. **Gather again on Saturday night at 7 p.m. for one of the most ancient celebrations of the church...as we light the new fire and to read, hear the stories of salvation from scripture, and remember our baptisms.***

And then, join us **Sunday morning for services at 8:30 and/or 11 a.m.** as we celebrate the resurrection in the light of day. Some of you might say, "Wow. That sure is a lot of church-going. I think we'll just skip a couple of those. That's just too much to expect of us to do." I realize there are things that keep us busy in life; I understand that all too well. However, I would encourage you (and your children!) to come to all the services – if you are at all able to do so. After all, we only have a week like this once a year. Yes, you will find yourself at church quite a bit this week if you embrace the journey of moving through Holy Week in this way ... but your celebration of Easter will be more complete if you observe each of the Three Days leading up to the resurrection.

Alleluias will soon be sung again.

Grace and peace to you all,
Kathy

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Calendar

Apr 1 - Thu		MAUNDY THURSDAY	
	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	07:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service	Sanctuary
Apr 2 - Fri		GOOD FRIDAY	
	09:00 AM-06:00 PM	Good Friday Prayer Vigil	Sanctuary
	10:00 AM	AARP Tax Counseling	Fellowship Hall
	01:00 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
	07:30 PM	Good Friday Service	Sanctuary
Apr 3 - Sat		HOLY SATURDAY	
	07:00 PM	Great Vigil of Easter	Sanctuary
Apr 4 - Sun		EASTER SUNDAY	
	08:15 AM	Flowering of the Cross	Sanctuary

	08:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	09:40 AM	All Church Easter Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
	10:00 AM	Pre-School & Elem. Easter Egg Hunt	Grounds
	10:45 AM	Flowering of the Cross	
	11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
Apr 5 - Mon	06:00 PM	Delta Kappa Gamma	Fellowship Hall
Apr 6 - Tue	12:00 PM	Adventures	Fellowship Hall
Apr 7 - Wed		No Adult Choir Practice	
Apr 8 - Thu	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	01:00 PM	Thursday Circle	Annex
	06:30 PM	WPDS Board Meeting	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Theology on Tap	Offsite
Apr 9 - Fri	10:00 AM	AARP Tax Counseling	Fellowship Hall
	11:45 AM	Friday Circle	Library
Apr 10 - Sat	10:00 AM	"Ladies Who Lunch" Saturday Circle	Library
Apr 11 - Sun	08:30 AM	Worship / Communion	Sanctuary
	09:40 AM	Church School (for all ages)	Westminster
	10:40 AM	Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	11:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	04:00 PM	Children's Choir	Room 14
	04:00 PM	Children's Ministries Committee	Library
	05:00 PM	Youth Fellowship	Annex
Apr 12 - Mon	05:45 PM	Fellowship Committee	Fellowship Hall
	05:45 PM	Diaconate	Fellowship Hall
	05:45 PM	Congregational Care Committee	Fellowship Hall
Apr 13 - Tue	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Pastor's Study
	10:30 AM	Tuesday Circle	Library
Apr 14 - Wed	01:30 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
	07:00 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Apr 15 - Thu	10:00 AM	AARP Tax Counseling	Fellowship Hall
	12:15 PM	Mid-day Prayers	Sanctuary
	06:00 PM	Travis Audubon Society	Fellowship Hall
	07:30 PM	WPC Book Group	Offsite
Apr 16 - Fri	01:00 PM	Lifetime Learning	Room 10
Apr 17 - Sat	08:00 AM	PW Spring Retreat	Fellowship Hall

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Easter Brunch! Join us on April 4!

We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall between worship services (approx. 9:40 – 10:40) to enjoy another fabulous brunch as we gather a church community!

The menu is:

Frittata with eggs, sausage, bell peppers, onions and cheese baked in a hash brown crust (we have a meatless version as well)

Served with fresh salsa

Belgian Waffles with butter, maple syrup and strawberries & whipped cream

Assorted Mini Muffins

Strawberries and grapes

Coffee and Orange Juice

Suggested donation to help cover the cost:

Adults \$8.00

Children 4-10 \$4.00 -- Children under 4 No charge with service plate

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Westminster Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday April 1, 7:30 p.m.

“Maundy,” derived from Latin *mandatum*, means **mandate**, or **commandment**. On this night, we will gather for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper and for foot washing, remembering Jesus’ commandment to love and serve one another. At the conclusion of the service, the “stripping of the church” will remove or cover all textiles and images until Easter Eve.

The WPC Children’s Choir will sing at this service.

Child care will be available.

Good Friday April 2

Prayer Vigil in the Sanctuary 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

The sanctuary will be open all day for prayer and meditation as we prepare to witness and remember Jesus’ death.

Service of Tenebrae 7:30 p.m.

This service of gathering darkness and prayer will include reading and hearing the story of Jesus’ final hours of life.

Child care will be available.

Holy Saturday April 3

The Great Vigil of Easter 7– 8:30 p.m.

One of the most ancient celebrations of the Church, the Easter Vigil calls us to gather in the evening darkness to celebrate the resurrection. The service involves lighting of the new fire to celebrate Jesus Christ as light of the world. We will read and experience stories of salvation from the Bible, as well as remember our baptisms and celebrate the Lord’s

Supper. This is a “child-friendly” service for people of all ages; it is very interactive, celebrative and participatory!

Bring whatever you consider “hot cross buns” to be to share during the fellowship time after the service.

Easter

8:15 a.m. Flowering of the Cross

Arrive a little early this Sunday morning, and bring some fresh cut flowers – from your yard, or from the store – to adorn the flower cross in the sanctuary.

8:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast
Fellowship Hall

All are invited to eat a wonderful, scrumptious breakfast of frittata with eggs, sausage, bell peppers, onions and cheese baked in a hash brown crust, with fresh salsa (meatless version available). Belgian Waffles will also be served with butter, maple syrup and strawberries & whipped cream!

We’ll have assorted mini muffins, strawberries and grapes, coffee and orange juice.

Suggested donation to help cover the cost:

\$8 for adults, \$4 for children (4-10)

Children under 4 no charge with service plate

No church school this morning.

10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

All pre-schoolers and elementary children, this is for you! Bring your basket for a festive egg hunt with your WPC friends. There will be separate areas for different ages, so keep those rabbit ears tuned in on Easter morning so you’ll hear the instructions.

10:45 a.m. Flowering of the Cross

Again, bring your flowers to decorate the cross.

11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

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New Members'/Inquirers' Class Begins

The Westminster New Members'/Inquirers' Class begins Sunday, April 11. This four-week class will meet on Sunday mornings in the church library from 9:40-10:40. During our time together we will discuss some of the basic beliefs of the Presbyterian Church, describe the ministries taking place in and through Westminster, and provide an opportunity for participants to explore God's call to become involved in the Westminster community of faith. Those who have recently joined the church as well as those who are seeking a church home are encouraged to attend.

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One Great Hour of Sharing: sharing resources, changing lives

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Easter Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to fill the basket with a One Great Hour of Sharing "fish bank." Extra fish banks are available in the narthex.

Click here for a One Great Hour Sharing video on our website. [One Great Hour of Sharing](#)

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PW Spring Retreat Registration

Westminster Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat

Saturday, April 17th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
WPC Fellowship Hall

“Waking Up To Your Life”
led by
Nancy Chester McCranie

And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake. Mark 13: 37

...Awake, my soul!

I will give thanks to you, O God, among the peoples...

For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,

And your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Psalm 108: 1, 4

In a culture based on constant motion it is no small trick to learn how to see what is right in front of us. All too often, we are more likely to be on our way to somewhere else than present to the present. And in the meantime, life passes by in a rush, leaving us dissatisfied, overwhelmed by loss, diminished in spirit. Join Nancy Chester McCranie for conversation and reflection about how to wake up to the life we have; a life rich with hope and meaning.

Nancy currently serves as the Director of Volunteer and Bereavement Services at Hospice of Austin. She has served as an Educator and Spiritual Director at Seton Cove, as well as the Director for Professional Development of the College of Pastoral Leaders at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (APTS). She is a graduate of APTS, and a Presbyterian minister. As she says, she is a “mother to two lively boys; wife to an organic farmer and genuine character; I work full time at Hospice Austin and am active in my local Presbyterian church. I love to sing, dance, cook, read and jog, but not all at the same time.”

WPC Women’s Spring Retreat Registration Form (Turn in to WPC Office by Sunday, April 11th.)

NAME : _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

CHILD CARE: YES NO (Please circle one.)

Registration Fee - \$15.00 (includes lunch) Make checks payable to WPC and write PW Spring Retreat in the memo section. Thank you! (Scholarships available—Contact Julie Schriber 452-8027.)

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Southwestern University Chorale "All Bach" concert conducted by Kenny Sheppard. The orchestra will consist of Southwestern music faculty and other professional musicians, performing Johann Sebastian Bach's Magnificat, BWV 243 and Cantata 140, Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme.

Sunday, April 11, 2010, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Soloists for this performance, all members of the SU Chorale, are Catherine Klassen, Katie De La Vega, **David Shaw**, Ashley Foster, Zach Zeman, Brooke Lyssy and Brian Miller.

Southwestern Faculty members playing in the orchestra are, Eri Lam, **Adrienne Inglis**, Stephen Martin, Susan Douglas and Pam Rossman.

Lois Perkins Chapel

Free Admission

Sponsored by The Sarofim School of Fine Arts, Department of Music

Contact Lacy Vain, vainl@southwestern.edu or 512-863-1379

Southwestern University is located in historic Georgetown, a 30 minute drive north of the Texas State Capital, Austin, 1001 E. University Avenue, Georgetown, TX 78626 (512) 863-6511

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Below is a short update on the general fund revenues and expenses. On a quarterly basis, we will provide the full income statement. Additionally, the full financial statements are always available in the church office on a monthly basis. We encourage anyone who is interested to pick up a copy or ask Jimmie to email you one.

Operating Revenues and Expenses
As of February 28, 2010

Revenues \$140,829

You Did It! Manos de Cristo Wins \$20,000 Scholarship

Manos de Cristo just received news that they were awarded a \$20,000 project scholarship from the Tom's of Maine Dental Health for All project – all thanks to **your** online voting. The sponsorship will underwrite expensive supplies needed to treat patients so that we can provide dental care at affordable rates.

Giving our patients healthy smiles is key to their overall health and well-being. Affordable oral healthcare is a critical need in our community, and we are so excited that, **because of your votes**, we have received funding that will get us closer to meeting this need.

Thank you for your support – this would not have happened without you!

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Spring Cleaning? Manos Needs Clothes

Please consider donating your items to the Manos de Cristo Clothes Closet, where children's and men's clothing are always in short supply. Please contact Julie Ballesteros at 477-7454 if you have any questions.

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WPC Prayer Shawl Ministry Begins

Do you like to knit, crochet, weave or sew? If so, this is for you! (If not, we still need your help!!)

We're beginning a Prayer Shawl Ministry at WPC and we are looking for people who are interested in participating! Lap robes, prayer shawls and baptismal blankets will be made by WPC members and given to members of our church as a symbol of the church's love and prayers during times of life transition.

We plan to provide the yarn, patterns, and some suggestions for prayers to use while the item is being made. Shawls can be created at home on your own time and at your own speed or you can bring your project to the WPC Crafting Bee to work on it. You can also get help with your project and/or lessons on knitting or crochet at the Crafting Bee. You don't have to attend a group or come to the meeting to participate!!

On May 9th (Mother's Day) we will have a Moment for Mission and will set up a table in the narthex to receive donations of washable yarn, knitting needles, crochet hooks, etc. and money to help us buy yarn. It takes about \$30-35.00 of yarn to make a shawl or lap blanket. Baptismal blankets cost less to make because they are smaller.

So please help us with your donations, your creative skills and your prayers for this new ministry at WPC. For more information or to find out how to participate, contact Lesley Saunders (lesley.a.saunders@gmail.com or 512-689-7000) or Terry Allbright (TAllbrightLPC@gmail.com or 512-284-8435).

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From Previous Connections

Need Some Help With Your Income Tax Return?

Each Friday up to and including Thursday, April 15, volunteer tax return certified preparers will be working under the AARP's Tax Counseling for the Elderly program. They are working in the Westminster Fellowship Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Friday. **There are no income or age restrictions and no costs.** The general public is to be served, not just WPC members.

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Worship

Sunday, April 4

Easter

Preacher: Bill Clark

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Robert Quiring

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Luke 24:1-12

Those Serving as After-Church Elders, Greeters, Cookie Hosts, Acolytes, and After-Church Flower Deliverer:

After Church Elders: Debbie Mincher, Lesley Fields, Ann Scott

Greeters: South Door, Curtis and Dorothy Andrews; North Door, Pat and Ben Boswell

Cookie Hosts: No Cookies – Join us for Easter Breakfast!

Acolytes: 8:30 Service: Chris Hoeffner-Ross, Chance Polan, Jonas Tatu; 11:00 service: Hannah Dale, Kerby Dale, Will Ezell

After-Church Flower Deliverer: Virginia Hill

Sunday, April 11

2nd Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Robert Quiring

Liturgists: Kathy Anderson, Bill Clark

Scripture: Revelation 1:4-8; Psalm 118:14-29; John 20:19-31

Those Serving as After-Church Elders, Greeters, Cookie Hosts, Acolytes, and After-Church Flower Deliverer:

After Church Elders: David Rose, Jean Davis, Paul Stubbs

Greeters: 8:15 South Door, Laura and Scott Slaughter; 8:15 North Door, Sharon McGraw and Hazel Herring
11:00 South Door, Diane Frick and Frank Denius; 11:00 North Door, Meg and Emma Davidson

Cookie Hosts: Mary Moody and Nancy Westmoreland

Acolytes: Sara Shaw, Madison Tyson, Grace Scoggin

After-Church Flower Deliverer: Phillip Doughtie

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Adult Ministries

Adult church school, Sunday mornings 9:40 – 10:40 a.m.
WPC website!

For more detailed descriptions, please visit the

No Church School classes on Easter Sunday, April 4!
Join us for the Easter Brunch at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall!

Upcoming Classes:

Forum Class – Fellowship Hall

April 11, 18 and 25 *The Love of Wisdom...How Three Ancient Greek Thinkers Can Change Our Lives: Epictetus,*

Epicurus, and Seneca

Dr. Michael Jenkins, Academic Dean & Professor of Pastoral Theology (April 11 and 25) and Dr. Lewie Donelson, the Ruth A. Campbell Professor of New Testament Studies (April 18)

Bible Study – Room 9

Interested in reading and studying the Bible? No prior knowledge is needed, just your willingness to read the Bible and reflect on it with others! Join us!

April 11 Acts 18 – 19:7

April 18 Acts 19:8-41

April 25 Acts 20:1-16

MYConnection Class – Room 10

This class deals with a range of topics and issues related to parenting, family relationships, and being faithful Christians in the world today.

For April and May, MyConnection will be looking at "The Developing Minds of Babies, Toddlers and Young Children," led by Dr. Ed Tyson, and "Food," covering various topics such as factory farming, cooperative farming, growing our own food, slow food, being vegetarian and appreciating where our food comes from, led by MyConnection class members. Check the website, Sunday bulletin and watch your e-mail inbox for specific dates and topics.

Also, add Friday, April 23rd to your calendars. We'll be having a potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall and on the playground starting at 5pm.

The Thoughtful Christian Class – Library

This class will meet with the Forum Class on April 11, 18, and 25.

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Children's Ministries

Preschoolers: Preschoolers start in Room 14 for Song Time and the teachers will pick them up and take them to their classrooms. The children may be picked up in their room at the end of Sunday school. 2/3's will be in room 5 and the 4's/K's in room 4. Your child must be 2 by August 1st to be in the 2 year old class. Younger children may be taken to the nursery.

A **NURSERY** for our littlest members is in Room 2, staffed by a caring and trained team of child care workers. Children of all ages are welcome in worship at Westminster. The nursery, located in Room 2 of the Education Wing is available for infants through 5 years old.

Godly Play for Preschoolers on Sunday Morning

Children of all ages are welcome in worship at Westminster. We understand, however, that sometimes children grow restless, so during the 11 a.m. worship service, as a part of caring for our youngest saints, we offer a nursery for infants and Godly Play for 3-5 year olds. Godly Play will begin at 11:15, but children may join us at any time after the Passing of the Peace. We ask that parents wait outside Room 13 after worship for children to be dismissed.

Elementary Age Children: Dwelling Places meets in Room 13.

April 11- 25 – Resurrection Stories

May 2 - 16 - Jonah

VBS - SAVE THE DATE!!!!

WPC Vacation Bible School will be August 9-13
More information will follow.

Looking for help with crafts, science, music, and other areas. Let Karen know if you will be able to help.

Children's Choir has started!!!!

Karen Wagner will be leading the children's choir this spring. They meet in Room 14 from 4:00-4:45 on Sunday afternoons. It is for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. We will be singing for Mother's Day. April 11th is the next rehearsal. A perfect time to come join in making a joyful noise!!!

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Youth Ministries

Church School classes for all youth meet each Sunday morning, in the Annex, located at the corner of Carlton and Hillview, just beyond the church parking lot.

Fellowship

April 4th - Easter - no fellowship

April 11th - Rehearse for Youth Sunday

April 18th - TBD

Save the Date

Please let Karen know ASAP if you are interested in going on the mission trip.

High School Mission Trip Summer 2010 – June 20th – June 26th – To Texas City for Hurricane Clean up with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Middle School Mission Trip Summer 2010 – June 22nd – June 25th – Waxahachie, TX Presbyterian Children's home

Middle School (Grades 6 – 7)
Meets in the Annex Living Room
Topic: I Know My Bible

Senior High (Grades 9 – 12)
Meets in the Annex Red
Topic: A variety of resources
Focusing on our lives, current events, questions, and the role of faith in our lives.

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Fellowship

Thursday – April 8 -- instead of Thursday, April 1 (Maundy Thursday)

7 p.m. @ Opal Divine's, 700 West 6th Street

Topic: Up!

If you have a chance to watch the movies ahead of time, please do...but if you can't, don't stay away; there will be plenty to talk about.

Bring a friend, neighbor, or co-worker! **Opal Divine's is on West Sixth Street across from Katz's Deli. This is a great place; we have the upstairs room all to ourselves!**

Here's a link to the website if anyone wants to preview the menu:

<http://www.opaldivines.com/freehouse/index.html>

There is a parking lot in the back and lots of street parking as well within a block or two that is generally free. Suggestion: Why not meet at the church parking lot and carpool with others? Talk it up; ask around; the less vehicles we have to park the easier it will be.

Adventures meets Tuesday, April 6 @ Noon in Fellowship Hall. Come and share some favorite experience, thought, or memory on which you reflect with interest.

Come at noon.

Bring your lunch

Bring a friend.
Enjoy the fellowship.
Don't miss it!

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Mission

Bring Food for Manos de Cristo on Sunday, April 4 – Always the 1st Sunday of the Month!

Manos always needs food. Bring non-perishable food Sunday, **April 4**. And as we are fed at our Lord's table, we remember to feed others in need! Please remember to give for those who have less than we do.