

ENTERING THE SEASON OF LENT



For the entire month of March we will journey together through the season of Lent.

Lent lasts for forty days, excluding Sundays, and ends with Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. The season of Lent reminds us of times of wilderness and wandering and reminds us that God has always called people

out of their safe, comfortable lives and led them into uncomfortable places as God reveals to us paths we would have never chosen. We as God's people are called to walk a path of humility, justice, and peace. The forty days of Lent provide us the opportunity to imagine what this path looks like for us as we reflect on what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Each Sunday in Lent, our Adult Education classes will follow Jesus through the last days of his life. Led by Rev. Skip Mulock, this will be a time of following the book titled *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine. Professor Levine teaches New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Amy-Jill

offers a unique look into the history behind the Holy Week stories as she explores the risks taken by Jesus and his followers during the last days of Jesus' life.

Looking forward to Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, April 6, beginning at 5:30 pm we will come together for a potluck meal in the Covenant Center. Due to Covid we have missed this opportunity to fellowship together and share conversations and a wide variety of food. The Lord's Supper will be shared this evening around our tables.

Good Friday, April 7, at 7:00 pm. This holy day will be marked by a service of music. The combined choirs of First Presbyterian Church and Spirit of Peace will present "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Theodore Dubois. This evening of sacred music will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra and soloists. Please plan to join us for the sacred time of worship.

Easter Sunday, April 9, at 9:30 am.

May this season of Lent be a time of hope as together we live into our identity as followers of Jesus.

On this journey with you!

Pastor Pat



DEACON DOINGS

Congregational Care Team will be hosting a community potluck Maundy Thursday service on April 6th. We will be inviting the other congregations and community groups who use our building to join us to worship. Bring a dish (any dish, salad, or dessert!) to share and join us for food, fellowship and worship.

Neighborhood Care Team has been busy helping out with multiple community needs including providing beds and bedding for a family in need, providing a sewing machine and supplies for a hospice patient and assisting the Union Gospel Mission following building flooding they had around Christmas time.

GLORY HOUSE

More than 50 years ago, First Baptist Church Pastor Roger Fredrikson was made aware that upon release, former prisoners had many needs and few resources. In addition to support from members of his congregation, Roger encouraged participation from community churches to meet this challenge. First Presbyterian Church quickly responded with pastoral, financial and volunteer assistance. This ecumenical effort established Glory House, a faith-based halfway house, which would provide shelter and emotional support to inmates as they returned to the community. The dream that began with transitional housing in a rented pink house has grown into a residential apartment and outpatient facility. Today, staff provide counseling, alcohol and drug treatment, job training and placement.

Through 50 years of growth, FPC has continued to be a valuable partner with financial support from the Mission Team and Deacons. A variety of volunteer projects has now expanded to include Peaceworks. Members of our



Each month the FPC Deacons assemble housewarming baskets for guests at Glory House.

congregation, which include Dave Tidwell, Tacey Braithwaite, Carol Woltjer, Cindy Howard and Eric Gulden, have faithfully served on the Glory House Board of Directors. Carol was a staff member for three years.



As the Glory House Board of Directors planned a community wide capital campaign to build additional apartments, the Mission Team was asked for a pledged commitment of \$25,000. The team responded with an immediate gift of \$5000 and requested endorsement from Session for the remainder. Session enthusiastically supported the project asking that members of the congregation be given the opportunity to make individual pledges and gifts. However, the COVID pandemic forced postponement of the project.

We now have the opportunity to honor that commitment and continue the 50 year relationship that has strengthened throughout the decades. Together we can affirm the mission of Glory House: “Helping people claim their lives with Christian compassion, resources and support”. Every gift and pledge is important. A thoughtful and prayerful response is suggested. Please designate the gift for The Glory House Apartments.

**Ruth Parry and Angie Nelson
for the Mission Team**

FLOOR WORK IN DOWNSTAIRS KITCHEN AND ROOM 101

If you roam the lower halls you will see floor work being done in the Presby Cafe (Room 101) as well as the kitchen. A couple of years ago, fresh paint and new vinyl flooring was replaced to freshen up these areas. This work was completed through generous donations from members of our congregation. Roughly a year ago we started seeing issues with the adhesive seeping up through the seams between the tiles, in different areas. We contacted the supplier and installer and started conversations as to why this was happening and how to fix it. No real problem was found but the company, Sioux Falls Interiors, stepped up and told us they would replace it under warranty and at no

cost to the church. They are also the company that did the Covenant Center flooring and painting.

They deemed it had to be a chemical reaction between adhesives, so this time they used a different adhesive that is more expensive but hopefully will resolve the unknown issues.

We know this caused some rescheduling or relocation of activities while the work was being done, and we appreciate your flexibility during this time.

The Building and Grounds Committee

FEBRUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

A Special Session Meeting was held on January 20, 2023 via Zoom. Most of this meeting was conducted in executive session, but the following actions can be reported.

Upon recommendation from the Personnel Ministry team, longtime employee Chandra Isackson's Office Manager position was converted from an hourly to a salaried position. In addition, the Rev. Dr. Pat Hammond's salary will be supplemented by an amount of \$2,500/month between January and June of 2023.

Subsequent to the January 20 Special Meeting, the Session approved three motions via email. First, following a recommendation from Rev. Carolyn Visser and further investigation by Elder Suzannah Spencer, Session authorized a contract with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (Lombard, IL) for the purposes of guiding a restorative conversation among FPC staff.

Second, Session authorized Director of Facilities Jacob Forstein to purchase a John Deere X758 tractor with mowing and snow removal attachments as a replacement for our current equipment. This epiphany request will be paid from the Bernice Anderson gift.

Finally, Session approved a request from elementary students Graham Wright and Ian Gulden to hold a raffle on Sunday, February 19 and Sunday, February 26, to support the children's Service-Learning Project. The funds will be used for supplies to construct activity bags that will be distributed to hospitalized children.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the February Stated Session Meeting was postponed until February 21, after the deadline for the Messenger you are now reading. Look for news from the February Stated Session Meeting in the April Messenger.

**Eric Wells,
Clerk of Session**

FLEECE BLANKET PROJECT

Over the years, many members of FPC have helped with the cutting and tying of blankets for the Edith Sanford Breast Cancer Center. The cancer center staff appreciates all your hard work and the many blankets made by our congregation. Recently, ten individuals cut over thirty fleece blankets. On Saturday, February 18, a group of seventeen people gathered at church and tied fifteen blankets. There are a group of women who prefer tying blankets at home. If this is something you would enjoy doing, please let us know. We can always use more volunteers.

The blanket project is not concluding with this campaign, as there will always be more cancer patients who need blankets. We will continue making them. Thank you for your help.

**Pat Boelman
Peaceworks Sewing Ministry**



SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

RAFFLE for the BEST SEATS in Worship

The Service Learning Project group this year has been making BIG things happen. This project is completely student led. The group decided to help sick kids in the hospital and invited Pam Koepsell, a pediatric palliative navigator to teach about needs of sick kids. Pam shared LOTS of ideas with our group on how FPC might minister to kids in the hospital. After thoughtful discussion, our kids voted to make activity bags/craft kits to give to kids in the hospital. Realizing this would require some money, the kids in the Service Learning Project group decided to hold a raffle for the best seats in worship—the front pew, the back pew AND, a seat on the organ bench! The raffle raised \$999!

Our group also selected projects/activities to put into the craft activity bags. During Sunday School on February 26, elementary students worked together to assemble 165 activity bags! These bags will be shared with the child life specialists at Sanford Hospital!

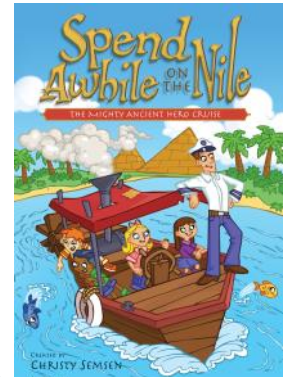


Students assembling activity kits.

SAVE THE DATES

Summer Music Camp
Spend a While on the Nile
 (completed grades 3-8)
 June 5-9

Vacation Bible School
 (3-years-old through completed 5th grade)
 July 10-14 from 9-noon



JESUS CREATES A FAMILY



Jesus calls fishermen, James and John.

Our elementary Sunday School students recently began a rotation about Jesus calling the disciples. Students are learning that Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me.” Jesus issued invitation to follow, not to those who are perfect and righteous, but to imperfect, ordinary people. Jesus calls people like us to follow too!



Jesus calls Levi, the tax collector.

“You don’t get meaning from your work; you bring meaning to your work.” (Bonnie Wurzbacher)

All work is important to God. Work supplies us with food, clothes to wear and a roof over our heads. It supplies us with physical health, strength, skills, education, wisdom, knowledge, talents, hopes, dreams experiences and ideas. Sheila Alweine defines work from a biblical perspective as “Cultivating what God has given us so that it provides for our needs and continues to (help us) grow.”

But how does our daily work honor God? Honor others?

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. I Corinthians 10:31

Be open to learning how to honor God and others through work.

Judy Rops and the Membership Ministry Team

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT-JOHN & ANDREA BOERIGTER

You may have seen the John and Andrea Boerigter family arrive at church. Sometimes there are the four of them and sometimes there are a lot more.

John Boerigter grew up in Hastings, Nebraska and moved to Kansas City for college and stayed there. Andrea grew up in northwest Iowa and moved to Kansas City after graduate school. They met when physically running into each other (sounds like a great story), fell in love and got married.

After being married a year, and John in between jobs, they decided if they ever were going to make a move it was the time. Sioux Falls stood out as the best community choice and they made the move when Andrea found a job. In six months, they decided to stay. They bought a house and started attending First Presbyterian Church. They have been members since 2013. John currently serves as a Deacon and Andrea serves on the Membership Ministry Team.

John has held various positions at Sanford Health and currently serves as a Principal Strategic and Operations Advisor for Sanford Health Plan. Andrea started her own business (*Bloom*) as a speech and language pathologist. They have two sons, Hank (age 9) and Gus (age 7). The boys like sports of all kinds, reading, any game (board or video) and adventures of all kinds. Time is spent at Lake Okoboji in the summer.

John and Andrea became foster parents for the state of South Dakota in 2020 after completing training courses. “What a year to do that,” said Andrea. “We had always had a spot in our hearts for kids and adults in need, and we felt providing foster care was a way to provide for both.”

Children enter the foster care system when it has been determined that their home is not a safe place for them. Some of those reasons include abuse, neglect, incarceration or abandonment. A child may also enter the foster care system due to the death of a caregiver. Generally, older children or children with specific medical or behavioral needs remain in the foster care system for a longer period of time. (information from Foster Care and Adoption)



John and Andrea have fostered and provided respite care for nine children since 2020 ranging in age from newborns to 12 years of age, including infants and toddlers with medical needs. “We open our home as a stable environment. Our boys welcome them, too, sharing toys and time with us.”

“The FPC community has been great about providing support to our children, especially the year we had a pair of siblings living with us,” John said.

“We struggle to say goodbye, but our prayers are always for them to be safe and loved,” said Andrea. “The boys have come to understand loss at a very young age but it has helped them understand the difference they can make in a life, just by sharing their love.”

John and Andrea Boerigter, Hank and Gus, are some members you might like to know better. They have some wonderful stories to share.

Judy Rops, Membership Ministry Team

ADAMS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Presbyterian Women of FPC is now accepting applications for the Adams Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded each spring to men and women who are pursuing roles in Christian Service—ministry, mission work, church music, etc. Initial consideration is given to FPC members, and thereafter to outside applicants.

The Adams Scholarship originated in 1966 to honor Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Adams. Dr. Adams was senior pastor at FPC from 1939-1966. Presbyterian Women created the scholarship in 1966 and have continued to support it through annual fundraising events. Memorials, bequests, and individual contributions are also welcomed as ongoing opportunities to support our future Christian leaders.

Checks or donations can be directed to PW—Adams Scholarship.

Scholarship forms are available on the FPC website www.fpcsiouxfalls.org. Go to Quick Link and click on forms. Applications are also available in the church office. Completed applications are due April 30th. Any questions may be directed to Mary Tidwell mtidwell@sio.midco.net.

Adams Scholarship Committee

Mary Tidwell, Judy Regan, Ruth Metcalf

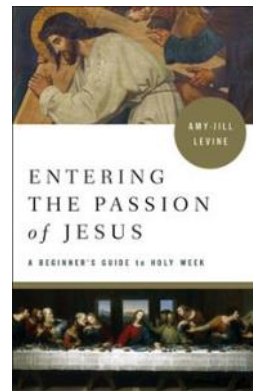
WOMEN OF THE CHURCH



Be Our Guest
Presbyterian Women Invite You To
"Step Into Spring"
at the Guest Day Luncheon!

Saturday, March 25, 2023
11:00 am in the Covenant Center
An Invitation is Extended
To All Church Women and Guests
Keynote Speaker Phyllis Schrag Presents
"Mirror, Mirror on the Wall"
Purchase Tickets March 5th, 12th, and 19th
in the Narthex and daily in the church office.
Invite Your Friends, Neighbors, Family
\$12.00 per person
Ticket sales close March 22nd

ADULT EDUCATION



The Adult Education class Lenten Study Book: "Entering the Passion of Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine is now available in the church office for \$5.00. On Sundays from March 12-April 2, Rev. Skip Mulock will facilitate discussion from the book about the last week of Jesus' life.

FPC LIBRARY



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN READERS

MARCH 9, 2023—The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn

LIBRARY NEWS

Did You Know?

First Presbyterian Library belongs to each of you. Visit, peruse the shelves and check out some books. Children of all ages are invited. March/April will feature books on Lent and Easter. Drop by and see what you can find. Don't forget books will be part of the rummage sale the end of April. Visit and help fund YOUR LIBRARY!

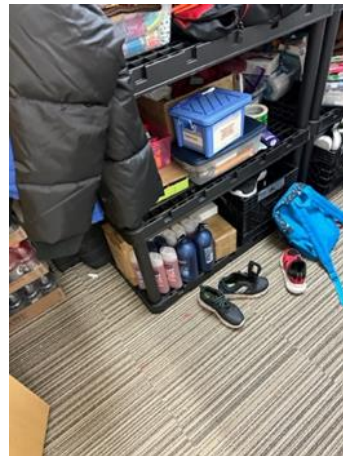
REAL IMPACT OF JULY CHILDREN'S OFFERING

When the July Children's Offering and 2022 VBS offerings were totaled, the amount came to an impressive \$5,000! That's amazing! The \$5,000 check was sent to Crow Creek Tribal School in Sephan, South Dakota, with a request that this gift be used by school educators to purchase items that will help students feel valued and respected – items that will help encourage them to become the best version of themselves while they develop into life-long leaders in their culture and everyday life.

Church, please feel gratified and honored. Pictured here are photos of the supply room that First Presbyterian

Church furnished. Rob Coleman, School Guidance Counselor, and Marcia Wells, Registrar, report that it's been such a blessing to be able to distribute shoes, socks, underwear, coats, jackets, sweatpants, underwear, school supplies, birthday cards, Gatorade, and personal care items to students who need them. They are also considering the possibility of purchasing food items to send home with students in backpacks on weekends so that they have food to eat.

YOU are making a significant impact to your neighbors in South Dakota. Thank you.



CHILDREN'S OFFERING

The Children's Offering during the month of March is **One Great Hour of Sharing**. This annual offering is collected during the season of Lent. Each gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing** supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance—all work in different ways serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

**When we all do a little,
it adds up to a lot.**

The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, **OGHS** is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Join us!



Fish offering banks and sharing calendars for children are available in Sunday School or at the welcome desk. Offering banks are returned on Palm Sunday, April 2.

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

THANK YOU FOR SPECIAL GIFTS TO FPC

Your continued financial support means everything to the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Your support not only allows us to minister to our congregation, community and world, but also to take care of our facilities.

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Jack & Judy Hamilton
1110 North Lake Ave. Apt. 110
Dow Rummel Village
Sioux Falls, SD 57104



BIRTHDAYS OVER 90

Ann Platt celebrates 91 years on March 2.

Lenore Thompson celebrates 94 years on March 3.

Joan Clark celebrates 93 years on March 4.

Leon Robsahm celebrates 93 years on March 12.

Mary McGee celebrates 91 years on March 16.

WITH APPRECIATION

Thank you so very much for your birthday wishes.
I feel so blessed to be a part of such a thoughtful
church family!

God's Blessings,
Lois Merritt

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Vyona Bultena	03/01	Leola Bergeson	03/18
Brenton Esser	03/01	Christine Halvorson	03/18
Ann Platt	03/02	Janis Hier	03/18
Alison Braithwaite	03/03	Obadiah Cochran	03/19
Lenore Thompson	03/03	Alvina Van Veldhuizen	03/19
Joan Clark	03/04	Liam Safar	03/20
Annabelle Kautz	03/04	Robert Tower	03/20
Colin May	03/05	Jane Walsh	03/20
Lyn Halvorson	03/06	Diane Perkins	03/22
Cynthia Lenz	03/08	Linda Tom	03/22
Amy Engebretson	03/09	Samuel DeGroot	03/23
Haley Hammond	03/10	Mike Justice	03/24
Adelynn Kooima	03/10	Dayton Griess	03/25
Ed Kraayenhof	03/10	Steve Rickenbaugh	03/25
Jace May	03/11	Eric Gulden	03/26
Dave Lower	03/12	Declan Larson	03/26
Leon Robsahm	03/12	Ronald Warren	03/26
Jeremy Dykstra	03/13	Ethan Sip	03/27
Hannah Jacquemart	03/14	Linda Stengel	03/27
Kevin Jatton	03/14	Lori Walsh	03/27
Kathy Kemp	03/14	Joshua Holden	03/28
Wrigley Ward	03/14	John Hove	03/29
John Bylsma	03/15	Gary Kulm	03/29
Gregory LaFollette	03/15	John Braunschmidt	03/30
Pamela Bartunek	03/16	Kathie Douma	03/30
Mary McGee	03/16	Jackie Hove	03/30
Chris Ward	03/16	Julian Halberstadt	03/31
Emma DeCou	03/17	Brayden Olson	03/31



CONTACT INFORMATION & LINKS

First Presbyterian Church

2300 S. West Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Email

info@fpcsiouxfalls.org

Phone

[605-336-2886](tel:605-336-2886)

Mailing List

[Sign up for mailing list](#)

To Donate

<https://www.fpcsiouxfalls.org/give>