

ENTERING THE SEASON OF LENT



Beginning with Ash Wednesday (February 14th this year) the Church enters into the season of Lent. Lent lasts for forty days, excluding Sundays, and ends with Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday.

This Lenten season, we will be focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples – Peter. In many ways

we can see ourselves in Peter. Peter is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. He wants to follow Jesus but says things like, “I’m not prepared. I’m not capable. I’m not deserving. I’m not faithful enough. I’m not smart enough.”

During Lent we will watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of Peter. Peter – a very normal human being trying to figure it all out, just like us. Faith is a journey. Peter kept going. He kept searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Peter’s story reminds us that God loves imperfect people and in fact, time and again, that’s precisely who God claims and calls.

Ash Wednesday Worship Service, February 14, at 7:00pm – We will enter the season of Lent as we come together to worship. We will celebrate Holy Communion and we will receive ashes as a way to begin this season with humility and repentance.

The forty days of Lent offer us the opportunity to deepen the inner work we each need to do in order to go out into the world to seek and serve all others with compassion, love, and hope.

LOOKING FORWARD (watch for more details in the coming months)

Holy Week does not arrive until the last week of March but I want you to prepare and look forward to the culmination of our Lenten season.

Maundy Thursday, March 28, begin gathering at 5:30pm and share a potluck meal together in the Covenant Center. This is a wonderful 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 Worship Service, March 29, at 7:00pm.

Easter Sunday, March 31, we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord!

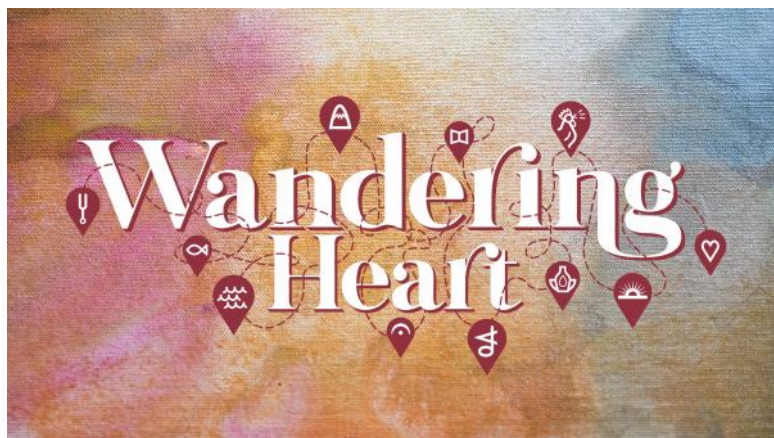
Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00am in the Chapel with fellowship to follow in the lounge.

Easter Sunday Worship at 9:30am in the Sanctuary with the flowering of the cross!

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

On this journey with you!

Pastor Pat



SESSION JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Rev. Dr. Pat Hammond announced to the Session that her last Sunday would be April 28, 2024. The Session was saddened by this news but is profoundly grateful for the service Pat has provided to the congregation. The Session and Personnel Team, in consultation with Presbytery, will evaluate the possibility of obtaining a Bridge Pastor while the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) works through the process of finding the next permanent Pastor.

Session thanks the congregation members who agreed to serve on the PNC: Peri Erdmann, Gary Hoekman, Denise Kolba, Dave Olson, and Krista Wright. Session also recognized Peri for her assistance with Communion.

The balance of the meeting concerned financial matters. Elder John Ulmer reported that Sarah Callahan is making good progress as Business Manager and has most tasks well in hand. In particular, Sarah has all the information needed to produce expense reports for teams. She continues to refine several processes and procedures.

The November 2023 year-to-date statements indicate that we

have collected \$376,800 in income compared to \$375,700 of expenses. This is \$8,000 ahead of budget compared to \$20,000 behind budget at the same time in 2022. The Session is aware that the giving pattern over the last few years has seen decreased giving during the spring months, so it is too soon to draw significant conclusions from this data.

As of early January, 102 pledges have been received totaling \$441,000. This is essentially consistent with the same time last year, both in terms of the number of pledges received and the amount per pledge.

Session voted to authorize Elder John Ulmer to explore moving some cash to take advantage of higher interest rates.

Ministry teams should be aware that Session plans to approve the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget in June 2024, so budget requests will be coming soon.

**Eric Wells,
Clerk of Session**

DEACONS HIGHLIGHTS

It's time for Fun & Fellowship



Bingo & Pizza Party
Sunday, Feb. 25th
Play Bingo 4:00 pm
Pizza 5:30

Come solo or bring your family and friends for fun fellowship!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

Gifts of Women Sunday

March 10, 2024
9:30 - 10:30 am

Guest Day

Saturday, April 13, 2024
11:00am

Our guest speaker will be Ross H. Hier, The Prairie Painter.
A luncheon will follow the presentation.

We're looking forward to seeing you!



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

PRESENTATION OF STORY BIBLES TO TODDLERS



Britton Anderson

Cole Hove

Beckham Ingalls

Louie and Olive Jacobs

Leo Weflen

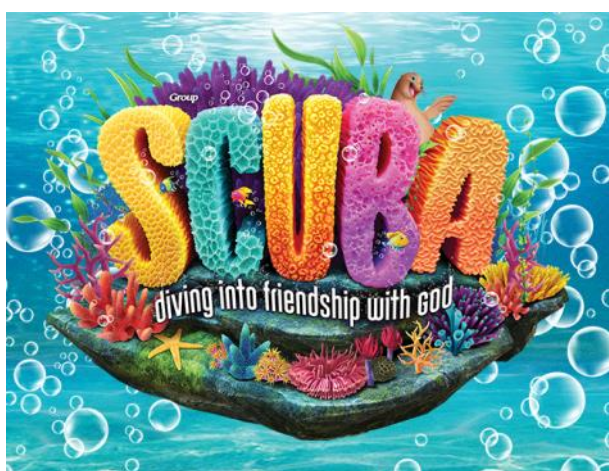
First Presbyterian presented Rhyme Bible Story Books to our toddlers and two-year-olds during worship on January 28, 2024. Lily Siorek also received her Bible. We pray that through the reading of these Bible stories, these children and families will come to experience the story of God's love for them.

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

Our elementary students are participating in our third annual service learning project where the KIDS are in charge of identifying a need, and doing something to help. The kids are responsible for learning and doing all aspects of the project. Through this project, our students are equipped with tools for serving and helping others which includes learning how to ask for help.

At the time of print for this Messenger, 13 kids (ages 1st grade through 5th grade) have met only two times but have already decided to help kids in the foster care system. The SLP kids invited experienced 'experts' to come to the next meeting and teach about the needs of foster kids and help generate ideas of ways to help foster kids in our city.

WOW! I wonder how God will lead this diverse group of kids at FPC to serve other children in our community.



2024 MUSIC CAMP

June 3-7, 9 am to 2 pm

Completed grades 3-8

Campers learn an entire musical with drama, music and movement and make some props and set pieces! Agape League is an epic superhero show with unforgettable and exciting music about the Fruits of the Spirit that will change your life.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 8-12, 9 am -noon

Kids 3-years-old through completed 5th grade

Save the dates, registration will open in March and dive into an extraordinary underwater adventure!



REFLECTIONS AFTER 5 MEN'S GROUP

This group of Presbyterian men meet at different venues, normally on the third Thursday of each month, to converse, enjoy a favorite beverage, and get to know each other better. If you want to order appetizers, etc., you may do so! Each session begins at 5:00 pm and you will be responsible for your own bill. Contact Jonathan Tilk 402-669-4002 to get connected.

MOBILE MARKET

FPC is on the advisory board of the Eat Well Mobile Market. This mobile grocery option helps address a critical transportation barrier to food access for basic grocery items by bringing the market to neighborhood sites in underserved locations. ANYONE is welcome to shop at the Mobile Market. You can help Sioux Falls eat well.



Bringing healthy, affordable food right to your neighborhood.

Locations and Times

Tuesdays

Falls Community Health
521 N Main Ave
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Active Generations
2300 W 46th St
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore
721 E Amidon St
2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Word of Life Church
3513 N 10th Ave
3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Great Plains Zoo
805 S Kiwanis Ave
5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Southeast Tech
2000 N Career Ave
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
(When STC is in session)

Additional sites will be added in the upcoming months!

Thursdays

Black Hills FCU/Tre Ministries
900 W 11th St
2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Furniture Mission Warehouse
1829 E 34th St N
3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Banquet West
710 N Marion Rd
5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Volunteers needed for all sites!

Volunteer With Us!

As a volunteer, you can help keep groceries affordable at the Eat Well Sioux Falls Mobile Market.



Current opportunities include:

Working during sale days in the Mobile Market
Picking up Breadsmith orders

Additional opportunities such as driving the truck/trailer, distributing flyers, and more are available. For more info, email volunteer@eatwellsf.org



For more information, visit eatwellsf.org or scan the QR Code:



NOTES FROM PRESBYOUTH

1. We had our New Year kick-off, so thank you church for all the raffle donations; the students are excited for the year!
2. Happy the Dog will be our guest on Feb. 21; you won't want to miss it!
3. We are assisting with Ash Wednesday.
4. Intergenerational Winter Festival is a big upcoming event, but the date is TBD.
5. We also need more people who are interested in making meals. If anyone is interested, contact Jen DeGroot 605-261-3294.

**Brighton Larson,
Director of Youth Ministries**



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Feb 4: Coffee Fellowship

Feb 11: Stress Management

Vicki Swier and Denise Kolba, RN, will team up to help us become informed about the *Better Choices, Better Health* workshops offered by SDSU Extension. These workshops are designed to help us better manage our physical and mental wellness. We will get to practice simple, yet effective methods of stress management that are featured in the workshops.

Feb 18: Sanford Clinical Trials

Learn about the clinical trials currently being run by Sanford Health. Clinical trials may provide innovative treatments and therapies which help to improve care. Led by the Sanford Clinical Trials project manager.

Feb 25: Jana's Story

You may recognize Jana Phelps by her leadership in *Congregational Care* at FPC, but you may be surprised to learn she is a registered nurse deeply committed to the welfare of our congregation and our community. She has broad experiences in global missions where she has worked in eleven countries with Doctors Without Borders. She will share "How my spirituality propels me in my Congregational Care responsibilities and in the mission field."

Mar 3: Coffee Fellowship

Mar 10 : Election 101

Representatives from the Minnehaha County Auditor's Office will provide a nonpolitical overview on the work that goes into running an election and answer questions involving South Dakota Elections. Please submit all questions to Kym Christiansen (she's in the FPC Directory) prior to the presentation. Details for how to submit questions will come later.

Mar 17 & 24: Islam and the Christian-Muslim Relationship

led by Dr. Hans Harmakaputra
Dr. Hans was raised a Christian in Indonesia which has the largest population of practicing Muslims . He has been involved with International Peacemaking and is currently teaching a course comparing Christian & Muslim religions at Augustana University.

Mar 31: EASTER no class

Apr 7: Coffee Fellowship

Apr 14: FPC Ministries in Action (originally scheduled for Jan. 14)

PeaceWorks, the sewing ministry, will display some of the many, many items they create and how the requests coming from our local community as well as across the state are handled. If you have never peeked in the magic factory hidden behind the library, you are missing out! *Meals on Wheels* is one of our longest outreach ministries. Come hear the heartwarming stories from members who are involved. Brighton Larson, the newest staff member, will be sharing his vision for the *Youth Ministries* at FPC.

Apr 21: Local, Sustainable Foods

Learn about local producers of food and their methods of sustainable agriculture.

Apr 28: Eat Well Mobile Market

Learn the full story behind the Mobile Market and FPC's role in this endeavor. What does the future look like for this innovative way to lessen the food deserts in Sioux Falls? How can we help? Michelle Erpenbach from *Thrive* will lead the discussion.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

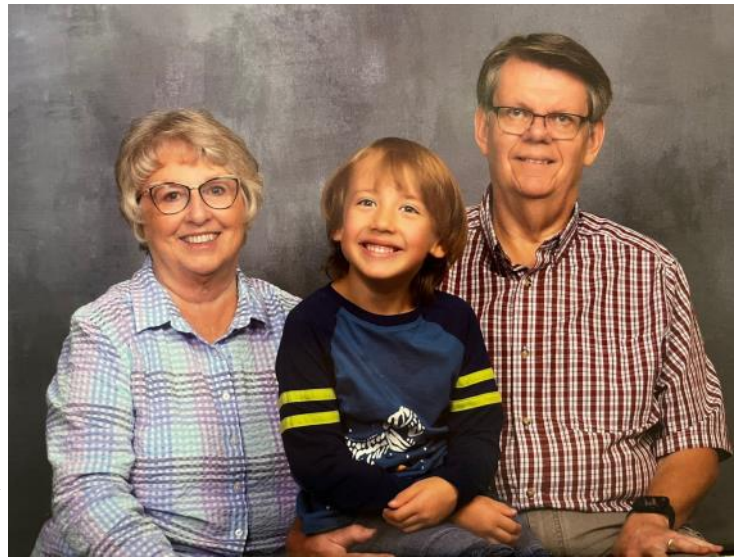
Jeff and Judy Little are long time members of First Presbyterian Church. You often see Judy's visible presence singing in the choir and Jeff's invisible presence working on audio and screens for Sunday morning worship.

Judy grew up in the small ranching community of Arthur in the Sandhills of Nebraska. Growing up, Judy was the church organist. She was even excused from school to play for funerals, weddings and other community events. She moved to Sioux Falls and graduated from Sioux Falls College (University of Sioux Falls).

Jeff grew up in Sioux Falls in the McKennan Park area and was educated in Sioux Falls Public Schools. After high school, he took vocational radio and television production and worked at KSOO TV before being hired by the SF school district to run cable to every school, producing local programs and scheduling them on the school's television channel.

Judy was hired to write curriculum and teach first through third grade music classes for the Sioux Falls School District via cable television. Jeff was the producer and they worked closely together for five years before the district made the financial investment in in-person teachers for all grades. Rather than part ways, they decided to get married! That 45-year union produced two sons, Steve and Andrew, one daughter-in-law, Katherine, and one adored first grade grandson, Oliver.

In addition to teaching and writing elementary music curriculum (39 years) for the SF school district, Judy taught piano and helped start and direct two community choirs. She was also a scout leader. Jeff was one of the founding members of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sioux Falls. Jeff formed his own video production company which was active until this year, but he still contracts with the school district to work in video production. Judy keeps busy babysitting, gardening and doing all kinds of arts and crafts and plays bass clarinet for the Horizons Community band.



Jeff has served in various capacities at FPC. He served as deacon, on pastoral nominating committees and taught Sunday School in addition to audio visual requests. In addition to singing in choir, Judy occasionally directs, plays bells and is on the Adult Education Ministry Team.

And what do they like about FPC?

Jeff appreciates the Presbyterian form of church governance. As an avid historian, he recognizes the strong links with our country's founding. He is passionate about the church's emphasis on loving all people ahead of politics, power or money. Judy likes how FPC isn't shy about examining difficult theological questions. Judy says, "The church has become much more hands-on, encouraging sacrificial involvement in community and world needs."

We are appreciative for their hands-on involvement at FPC through the years.

MEMBERSHIP MOMENT

The Membership Ministry Team is responsible for publishing a church directory every five years. Under the direction of Cathy Newcomb, new directory pictures will be taken beginning April 6, 2024. Pictures will be taken at the church, and you will be able to schedule your photography session online. Families and individuals will have the opportunity to update personal information including email and home addresses. Both a digital directory and paper directory will be made available. Home-bound member pictures will also be taken. Volunteers will be needed. If you would like to volunteer to help with this project, contact anyone on the Membership Ministry Team.

Judy Rops, chairman, Arla Peterson, Hilda Bosch, and Carol Raker

FIRST FRIDAY GRIEF SUPPORT

First Friday Grief Support meets the first Friday of every month from 10-11 am in the Choir Room.

Anyone who has experienced a loss is welcome. The loss might be the loss of a spouse, relative, friend, or even a job. The loss might have been recent or longer ago.



FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S OFFERING

The Children's Offering for February will be designated toward purchasing and assembling Birthday in a Bag Adventures for the children who celebrate their birthdays with their parents during a weekly visit at Family Visitation Center.

Most kids wake up in the morning, come home from school, or go to bed at night with their mom and/or dad there to give them a hug...or two or three. However, for kids whose lives have been disrupted and turned upside down because they are caught in the middle of adult issues like divorce, separation, or a menu of other traumatic conflicts...that's not the case. They often find themselves living, at least temporarily, apart from one or both parents.

Some of those kids go to Family Visitation Center every week to spend one precious hour with their absent parent(s). Since that one hour is the only hour of the week they are able to spend time together, they need to celebrate their birthday at FVC if their birthday is that week. Although every situation is unique, there are times when parent(s) either forget it's their child's birthday – or they simply can't afford a gift and party supplies. In cases where a protection order is in place, the child can celebrate his or her birthday with the parent with whom they are living, but the non-custodial parent can't legally attend.

When Family Visitation Center has bags available, they are able to provide the visiting parent with a Birthday Party in a Bag upon a parent(s)' arrival for their visit with their child(ren). The bag might contain themed plates, utensils, napkins, table covers or decorations, party favors, balloons, banners, and a gift. The contents of the bags vary, but the excitement they elicit from the birthday honoree is immense!

Sunshine Foods donates a cupcake for the birthday boy or girl and each individual present in the room for the party. This practice allows every child to celebrate the most important day in his or her life with both of the people they love.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

It is with great joy to declare that your gifts to this Presbyterian Offering totaled \$1940.00. This was in addition to the \$5278.82 which was designated for gifts from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog in the December Children's Offering. The Joy Offering will be divided between educational support for ethnic minorities and financial assistance for retired mission workers. These giving opportunities allow us to reinforce our connection with our Presbyterian denomination. You have demonstrated YOUR commitment. Thank you for being a caring Presbyterian!!!



PEACEWORKS SEWING MINISTRY

Tying blankets for Edith Sanford Breast Cancer Program will be held on Saturday, February 24th from 1-4 PM. Anyone willing to help with this project is welcome to come and help. For any information please call Pat Boelman at 605-940-3091 or the church office.



ADAMS SCHOLARSHIP

The Adams Scholarship originated in 1966 to honor Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Adams. Dr. Adams was senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church from 1939 to 1966. PW created the scholarship in 1966 and has continued to support it through the annual bake sale, memorials, bequests and individual contributions.

Applications for the scholarship are now being accepted by PW to be awarded in the spring. Scholarship forms are available on our website www.fpcsiouxfalls.org. (Go to Quick Link and click on forms.) Applications are also available in the church office. Completed applications are due by May 1, 2024.

Again, thank you for your generous support.

**Adams Scholarship Committee,
Judy Regan, Ruth Metcalf, Bobbi Lower**

WITH APPRECIATION

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia plant given to us in memory of our mother, Leila Hier. We enjoyed sharing it during our first Christmas season without Mother. It was so thoughtful of you to think of us. It warmed our hearts!

With gratitude,

Lisa & Dan Tunge and Steven & Janis Hier



Lenore & Joe Thompson
1023 S. Egan Ave. Apt. 6
Madison, SD 57042

Janelle Jansen
106 S. Sandstone Ave. Apt. 20
Brandon, SD 57005

Thank you, Dan Graber!

During worship on Dec. 17, our traditional music director, Dan Graber, thanked the members of the choir and Bell Chorale for sharing their time and talents with our church. We firmly believe that a very large part of the reason our music program is so strong (in numbers and talent) is Dan himself. Dan is an extremely talented musician, but he also puts in the work that is needed. He takes time to look thorough a lot of music before choosing music for us to sing and ring that is varied and always of good quality. He challenges both groups to be their best and has a way of encouraging us to exceed our potential. He clearly takes time to study the music deeply before rehearsals so that he knows the “problem spots” and has thoughts on how to solve them. In addition, he obviously spends a lot of time “on the bench” (both at FPC and Salem Zion Mennonite Church which is closer to the Graber home) preparing organ music for worship.

Dan’s talent, his obvious preparation, his engaging personality, and his deep and real faith make it a true joy to sing and ring in a group he leads. So, we want to publicly thank him for HIS leadership and dedication to the music at FPC. Thank you, Dan!!

Claire & Paul Gillaspey

(These statements reflect our personal views, but we have good reason to believe these views are shared by the other musicians in the choir and Bell Chorale.)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Karleigh Sudenga	02/01	Carol Woltjer	02/16
Tom Nicholson	02/02	Florence Opp	02/17
Weston Gulden	02/04	Stefanie Wieme	02/17
Paul Gillaspey	02/05	Tami Dickmeyer	02/18
Richard Newman	02/05	Ayla Wright	02/18
Charlotte McGrath	02/06	Faith Wright	02/18
Garry Papke	02/06	Lilyanna Wright	02/18
Randy Bartunek	02/07	Jeremy Hove	02/19
Joseph Henkin	02/07	Jonathan Tilk	02/19
Brad Hruby	02/07	Charley King	02/21
Harriet Pietz	02/07	Judy Regan	02/21
Ivy Johnson	02/08	Katy Burggraff	02/22
Lee Brandt	02/10	Fay Justice	02/22
Ariyah Hudson-Harms	02/10	Becky Wartner	02/22
Britton Anderson	02/12	Warren DeCou	02/23
Andrew Draeger	02/12	Pat Hammond	02/24
Hank Hight	02/14	Annie Cochran	02/25
Julie Thomas	02/14	Bill Waggoner	02/27
Linda Hart	02/15	Harper Tilk	02/28
Rodger Horr	02/16	Douglas Loudon	02/29

February

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)

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