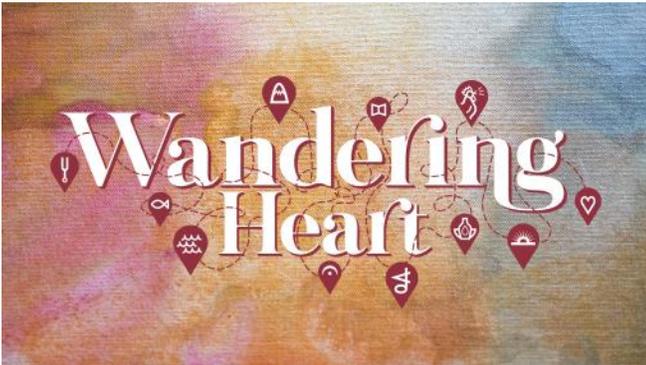


A MOMENT WITH PASTOR PAT



During this season of Lent, we have been watching the life of Jesus unfold through the eyes of his disciple – Simon Peter. Peter was a very normal human being who chose to follow Jesus and did the very best he could. He tried to figure out what it meant to be a follower of Jesus. Sometimes he was spot on in his actions and other times, well, not so much. But Peter kept going. He kept trying to be a good follower. He kept searching and yearning and loving. Peter dropped his fishing nets and followed Jesus, he had faith and then doubted, he recognized Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God, and he betrayed his Lord and friend by denying he ever knew him. After Easter Sunday, after the resurrection of his Lord, this fisherman Peter took on the new role of . . . leader.

Join us as we continue our journey through Lent and Holy Week arriving at the glorious Day of Resurrection – Easter Sunday.



March 3 – Third Sunday in Lent. This day we celebrate The Lord’s Supper. Read Matthew 16:13-20 and imagine a sermon titled, “Praise the Mount.” Matthew 16:18: *“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church . . .”*

New Member Gathering. Those interested in joining the church will meet immediately after worship with Pastor Pat and several Elders and Deacons. Grab a cup of coffee and a donut hole and meet in the Lounge for a time of conversation.

March 10 – Fourth Sunday in Lent and Gifts of Women Sunday. Read Matthew 16:21-23 and imagine a sermon titled, “I’m Fixed Upon It.” Matthew 16:22b-23: *Jesus turned and said to Peter,*

“Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”
New Members will be received during worship.

March 17 – Fifth Sunday in Lent. This day we celebrate a baptism! Read Matthew 18:15-22 and imagine a sermon titled, “Teach Me.” Matthew 18:21: *Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive?”*

March 24 – Palm Sunday (Beginning of Holy Week) Read Matthew 21:1-11 and John 12:12-16.

March 28 – Maundy Thursday. Join your church family in the Covenant Center for a potluck and The Lord’s Supper. We will begin to gather at 5:30pm with plans to eat at 6:00pm. Read John 13:1-38.

March 29 – Good Friday worship service at 7:00pm. Reread John 13:31-38. Read John, chapters 18 and 19.

March 31 – The Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday. We will have two services Easter morning:

Easter sunrise service at 7:00am in the Choir Room

Easter Celebration at 9:30am in the sanctuary. Be sure to come early to listen to an extended prelude and flower the cross as you enter the sanctuary. Read Luke 24:1-12.

Blessings to you as we journey together through this holy season.

On this journey with you!
Pastor Pat



SESSION FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

The Session met twice this month, once in a special meeting with the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and Paul Gillaspey, who represented the Personnel Ministry Team (PMT). That meeting was devoted mostly to general planning for the tasks of searching for a bridge pastor and an installed pastor. Session empowered the PMT to run the search for the bridge pastor with Paul Gillaspey serving as chair of that search.

During the regular Session meeting, the Session approved the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) prepared by the PMT for use in the search for the bridge pastor. The MDP is the informational form that pastors view on the PCUSA system when looking for open positions. Once the MDP is approved by the Presbytery, the search for the bridge pastor will be active.

The Session, in consultation with the PMT, approved the general parameters of the staffing plan for the interim period following Pastor Pat's retirement and the point when a bridge pastor might arrive. Briefly, the pulpit will be filled by Rev. Mike McCallum and Rev. Everett Bosch on a rotating basis during May, June, and July. Pending approval from Presbytery, Revs. Bosch and McCallum will moderate Session and Congregational meetings. Session is deeply grateful to Mike and Everett for taking on these tasks. Kathie Douma will lead the weekly worship planning meetings for the staff, and Paul Gillaspey has graciously volunteered to provide administrative leadership for the staff as needed. The Deacons anticipate an increased role in areas related to congregational care, supporting Congregational Care Coordinator Jana Phelps.

Have you noticed that it has been warm in the Sanctuary recently? This is because some control valves in the heating system have failed. Session voted to authorize the facilities team to spend an estimated \$14,400 to address this problem. The facilities team also communicated to Session that the fire alarm system upgrades needed to reach compliance with building codes will need to be done sooner than previously estimated. Session also reviewed a quote for audio/visual system upgrades throughout the building. Finally, the Session affirmed the continued use of the building as a voting location for elections.

Elders Amy Engebretson and Bobbi Lower will be seeking to repopulate the nominating committee in preparation for searching for the next classes of Elders and Deacons, who will be elected in June. If you have a desire to serve in any of these roles, please let Amy, Bobbi, or any member of the Session know.

Despite the busy agenda for both meetings, the Session took some time to acknowledge the many ways the congregation is carrying out FPC's vision. As just one example, Pastor Pat commended the Deacons and Youth for their outreach to our neighbors and home-bound members.

Eric Wells,
Clerk of Session



The time has arrived for scheduling photo shoot appointments for the new church directory. You will be able to make your appointment online by going to the following website:

<https://DigitalTapestryAppointments.as.me/FPCSiouxFalls>

Thank you, Cathy Newcomb, our photographer, for setting up the site. More information is available on the website. A "help desk" will be available following March worship services to assist making online appointments.



April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 10:00am-12:30pm, 1:00pm-6:30pm
7 10:45am- 12:30pm,	8 6:00pm-7:45pm	9 6:00pm-7:45pm	10 10:00am-12:30pm, 1:00pm-6:30pm	11 6:00pm-7:45pm	12 6:00pm-7:45pm	13 4:15pm-6:30pm
14 10:45am- 12:30pm, 1:00pm-6:30pm	15 6:00pm-7:45pm	16 6:00pm-7:45pm	17 10:00am-12:30pm, 1:00pm-6:30pm	18 6:00pm-7:45pm	19	

SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECT

Our fourteen elementary students working on the Service-Learning Project were forced to make some challenging decisions together as the group noticed our ending date was quickly approaching. The easy part of their decision, to help kids in the foster care system, was a unanimous decision. Deciding HOW to help was tricky because the kids had too many great ideas and the group wanted to do ALL of them. After lots of thoughtful discussion and hard work listening to each other, the group decided to help with two projects that would NOT require a fundraiser.

1. The kids called the **Family Visitation Center** and offered to shop for supplies and assemble Birthday Bags. This project was the Children's Offering in worship for the month of February. Family Visitation Center eagerly agreed to let the kids use the funds and do the work to assemble Birthday Bags. Each student in our group went shopping and purchased a gift they would like to receive at this time in their life AND a gift they would have enjoyed when they were younger. In all, our kids assembled 30 Birthday Bags.
2. Our students realized that almost all of them had clothes or other items that could be donated to the **Foster Closet**. This was meaningful to our group because they wanted to help provide necessities, items that all kids REALLY need! The students will collect items through the month of March. Items for donation can be placed in the wood donation cupboard in the narthex.



But, this group of kids is NOT finished yet. THESE KIDS are already finding ways to do MORE!

Kendall and Katelyn are 2nd and 4th year Girl Scouts. Their grandma wanted to support them in making their sales goals but is unable to have cookies. Grandma decide to give each girl a set amount of money toward cookies and the girls could decide what to do with the cookies.

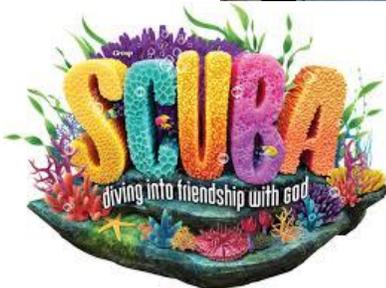
The girls decided they would like to continue on with the service project they are participating in at church and donate the cookies to foster children so Kendall spoke with Family Visitation Center! They will be donating approximately 4 cases (48 boxes of cookies to the Family Visitation Center so those kids get to enjoy a special, yummy snack during the short period when they get to see their families.



SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE

Birth up to age 5, 9:30-11:30 am

Our church nursery is open for childcare during worship and can be available through the S.S. hour if desired! We welcome Abygail Justice back to work as our regular provider.



SCUBA VBS, July 8-11 from 9 am to noon.

Kids will dive deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God.



Music Camp 2024 is scheduled for June 3-7!

With a high-octane story, clever dialogue, dynamic contemporary songs, and uncompromising spiritual truth, Agape League will be an ALL-TIME music camp favorite!

NOTES FROM PRESBYOUTH



1. Successful service projects
 - High Schoolers made blankets and shopped for food for those at the Foster Care Network.
 - Middle School Boys made cookies to deliver to the surrounding neighborhood.
 - Middle School Girls baked cookies for the congregation and volunteered as ushers for Ash Wednesday.
2. Upcoming March festival (date and details TBD)
3. Lock-in (date and details TBD)

Brighton Larson,
Director of Youth Ministries

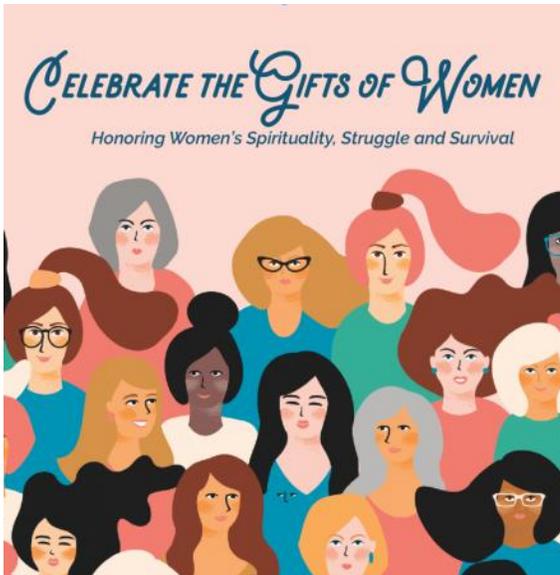


GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY

March 10, 2024

On this day we honor the many admirable qualities of women and the positive change they bring about by working together. The wreath is placed in memory of the women of our church who have passed away in the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Tunge, PW Moderator



Presbyterian Women Invite You To
Find Spiritual Comfort in Nature
at the Guest Day Luncheon

Saturday, April 13, 2024
11:00 am in the Covenant Center
An Invitation is Extended
To All Church Women and Guests

Ross H. Hier, The Prairie Painter, Presents
"The Natural World - A View Through My Eyes"

Ticket sales on Mar. 24th, Mar. 31st, & Apr. 7th
in the narthex and daily in the church office.
\$12.00 per person

An original painting will be given away!
Ticket sales end April 10th.

ONGOING OFFERINGS OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

There are 3 offerings specific to Presbyterian Women, and one ecumenical offering in which our local PWC participates. The following will provide some information about each of these offerings.

The Birthday Offering was launched in 1922 to honor the 10th anniversary of the Women's Auxiliary in the PC in the US. It is an annual tradition for givers and receivers around the world, usually collected in the spring. Over the last 101 years, grants funded by PW have impacted the ministries of more than 200 organizations and transformed the lives of countless people. Recipients for 2024 include Advocates for Community Choice in Marthasville, Missouri & Shawnee Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Thank Offering provides women with a tangible way to express their gratitude for special blessings in their lives. Grants from the Thank Offering range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Notably, at least 40% of donations are dedicated to health ministries; the remaining 60% funds new creative ideas for missions. In 2023, 28 applications were received; 7 projects were chosen for funding – 6 in the United States and one international. This offering is collected in the fall.

Cents-Ability was begun in 1976 by Presbyterian Women to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger. This offering is one way that families, congregations, and presbyteries can support the battle against hunger and poverty. Every person is invited to contribute a few cents for every meal – some groups suggest 5 cents. Funds are then used to support local hunger ministries, as well as national and international projects through the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a global ecumenical prayer movement for justice, peace, and reconciliation led by Christian women for women and girls all over the world. As tokens of prayer, women are encouraged to set aside the least coin in their country's currency. Every year, the FLC Fund is disbursed as grants for education, projects that empower women and girls, ending gender-based violence and poverty, and relief in times of natural and human-made disasters. This offering began in 1956 and was founded by Shanti Solomon.

Submitted by Shirley McCallum
PW Mission Coordinator

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Beth and Eric Wells grew up in Grand Island and Axtell, Nebraska, respectively, and met at Hastings College. They were married in 1997 while attending graduate school at Kansas State. They have two children, David and Emily.

David and his wife Lily, a 2023 Augustana University graduate, plan to move to the Washington DC area following David's graduation from Yale in May. David will begin work as a software developer on the advanced mathematics team at Metron. Lily will finish her mortuary science degree in August and will be looking for a position as a funeral director after they move.

Emily is an 8th grader at East Middle School in Harrisburg where she plays clarinet in band and is involved in show choir, dance, HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), and the youth programs at FPC.

Beth and Eric began attending FPC when they moved to Sioux Falls from Charlottesville, Virginia, where Eric was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Virginia and Beth was the Head Children's Librarian at the Waynesboro, VA public library before David was born. Eric and Beth attended FPC for the first time in 2003. They were welcomed by Jason and Kathie Douma and Will and Dawn Swart who invited them to lunch.

Eric works as a physics professor at Augustana. He recalls being hired by Karel Vander Lugt. He said, "Joyce even cooked dinner for the three of us and we walked through Tuthill park afterwards." At Augustana, Eric enjoys introducing young scientists to professional research projects. He often travels with his students to do experiments using the laser facilities at Kansas State.

Beth has worked for many years as a librarian in public and school settings. She is currently the Library Media Specialist at Adventure Elementary in Harrisburg and can occasionally be found at the Prairie West Library Branch in SF. She particularly enjoys



Eric, Beth, Lily, David and Emily Wells

pairing children with books. Beth's parents, Denny and Cheryl Busick, moved to Sioux Falls after Emily was born and also are members of FPC.

While Eric served on various church committees during their time in Kansas and Virginia, Beth became active at FPC once they arrived here helping with many Children's Ministry activities. Eric is now in his second term on the Session and currently serves as Clerk of Session. As the son of a Presbyterian pastor, he has long experience with PCUSA acronyms.

Eric and Beth are appreciative of the intergenerational family atmosphere at FPC, the strong children's programming, and the reformed theology.

FPC is appreciative to the Wells family for their many contributions to the life of the church.

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. Homebound 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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

March 3 Coffee Fellowship

March 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 will answer questions involving South Dakota Elections. Please submit all questions to Kym Christiansen (she's in the FPC Directory) prior to the presentation.

March 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 and Muslim religions at Augustana University.

March 31 EASTER no class

75 YEARS OF SHARING: HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

It was in 1949 that an hour-long radio appeal on a Sunday morning during Lent reached the stated goal of \$1,000,000. These gifts were used to provide relief to European communities ravaged by WWII. The success of that appeal has resulted in a large ecumenical effort to provide assistance to many around the world.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. The offering is used in three distinct ways. **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters and also supports refugees. **The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)** takes action to alleviate hunger and to care for God's creation. **Self-Development of People (SDOP)** invests in communities and responds to experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice.



In celebration of this 75th anniversary, I am encouraging everyone to think about the significance of the number 75. A gift of \$75.00 will provide a fishing kit for a fisherman so that he may feed his family (SDOP). A gift of 75 cents

each day during Lent (40 days) will total \$30.00 which will provide educational supplies for 3 students in a refugee camp (PDA). A gift of \$75.00 each week for the 6 weeks of Lent will provide \$450.00 for nutrition, filling meals for 30 households headed by women (PHP).

One Great Hour of Sharing gifts are collected each year during the season of Lent. Suggestions for giving will be listed each week in the FPC "In The Know" mailing. Watch for your email each Friday morning. Envelopes are available in the pew racks.

Think 75. 75 cents each day or each week. \$75 as a single gift or \$75 each week (\$450). \$750 as a one-time gift.

Ruth Parry for the Mission Team

MARCH 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, promote self-development of people, and assist in areas of disaster. These Presbyterian programs all work in different ways to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

**When we all do a little
It adds up to a lot!**

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



JANUARY CHILDREN'S OFFERING

The Children's Offering gift for the month of January totaled \$901.04 for the **Seed Sowers** campaign in the Philippines!

GLORY HOUSE CAMPAIGN

With the guidance of the Mission Team and the gifts of many, the \$25,000 pledge made by First Presbyterian Church to the Glory House has been successfully completed. Your gifts have been combined with other community support to build the Glory House apartments and will provide safe housing and support for recovery for men and women. These gifts affirm the decades-long commitment that this congregation has made to Glory House.

"Helping people (re)claim their lives with Christian compassion, resources, and support" is the mission of Glory House. This mission is reflected and affirmed by your generous gifts. Each member of this congregation has provided support with the initial gift from the Mission Team, and we thank you. The Peace Works group and the Board of Deacons are working together to continue to provide assistance in equipping the apartments. Thank you to those who are sewing and those who are assembling the baskets. Appreciation is also expressed for each person who made an additional show of support. The commitment to our brothers and sisters in Christ continues.

Thanks be to God!!!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SPECIAL GIFTS TO FPC!

WITH APPRECIATION

Thank you for your support this past year. Many of you have donated for my previous and current medical bills treating my cancer. I'm currently scheduled for a stem-cell transplant in March. It is very "humbling" the number of people who are praying for my recovery and offering help to my family. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Jim Jibben
Brother of Judy Rops

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars! Sunday, April 28 will be Rev. Dr. Pat Hammond's last Sunday as our pastor. The Deacons will host a Congregational Brunch in her honor following the 9:30 service. Plan to attend to thank Pat for her years of dedicated service!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ann Platt celebrates 92 years on March 2.

Lenore Thompson celebrates 95 years on March 3.

Joan Clark celebrates 94 years on March 4.

Leon (Robbie) Robsahm celebrates 94 years on March 12.

Mary McGee celebrates 92 years on March 16.

Leola Bergeson celebrates 90 years on March 18.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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



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