

SPRING FORWARD



Sunday, March 16
Daylight Savings Time Begins



First Presbyterian Church
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Rochester, Minnesota 55902
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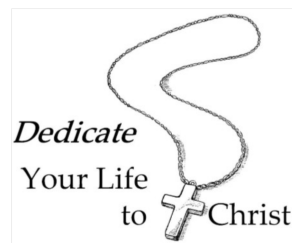
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MARCH CALENDAR

March 3	Midweek Evening Prayer Service Post-Service Organ Recital by Dr. Kartika Putri	7:00 p.m.
March 6	Covenant Fellowship	6:30 p.m.
March 7	<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i> Worship & Communion Social Concerns Virtual Coffee Hour Festival of Music featuring Dan Chouinard	10:00 a.m. 12:00 noon 4:00 p.m.
March 10	Midweek Evening Prayer Service Post-Service Organ Recital by Nathan Elsbernd	7:00 p.m.
March 14	<i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i> Worship <i>Daylight Savings Time</i>	10:00 a.m.
March 17	<i>St. Patrick's Day</i> Midweek Evening Prayer Service Post-Service Organ Recital by Austin Ferguson	7:00 p.m.
March 20	<i>First Day of Spring</i> Welcoming & Nurturing Committee Family Game Night	TBA
March 21	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> Worship	10:00 a.m.
March 24	Midweek Evening Prayer Service Post-Service Organ Recital by Katie Moss	7:00 p.m.
March 28	<i>Palm Sunday</i> Worship	10:00 a.m.
March 31	Midweek Evening Prayer Service Post-Service Organ Recital by John Stender	7:00 p.m.
April 4	<i>Easter Sunday</i> Worship	10:00 a.m.

Donate to the Easter Lily/Spring Flower fund for our Easter Service.
Plants will be distributed after the service to FPC C.A.R.E. members.

Help alleviate hunger by contributing to Channel One/Minnesota Food Share.



The Good News of First Presbyterian Church for March 2021

In the January 18, 2021, edition of *The Presbyterian Outlook*, Roger Gench had some interesting words to ponder as we begin our journey through 2021. He speaks of “covenants” – a very biblical word that points to our commitments. For most of us modern folk, commitments are difficult. We don’t like to be committed to something. We don’t like to be tied down to anything. Most people would prefer to be a bit fluid in their commitments. But Gench points out “The notion of “covenant” summons us to clarify our ultimate allegiance and put away idolatry, for in biblical perspective, as creatures we are always subject to some lordship (if not divine lordship, then to other, unworthy lordships) – or other “principalities and powers,” as the Apostle Paul put it. Bob Dylan captured this dynamic succinctly in a classic song: “It may be the devil, or it may be the Lord, but you’re gonna have to serve somebody.” (1)

The season of Lent is a good time to renew, or perhaps remind ourselves of, our covenant commitments. This is the season to renew our ultimate allegiance to God. This is the season to mean what we say when we affirm our faith in the PCUSA’s Brief Statement of Faith:

“In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.”

May that be so for you, and for me.

Roger Gench, *The Presbyterian Outlook*, January 18, 2021, p5.

Contact: Parlette. TJ@FPCRochester.org
Phone: (814) 715-0290

A THOUGHT FOR LENT

"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depths of our hearts."

Mother Teresa



JOHN STENDER,
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



The tradition of Evening Prayer is one of many daily prayer practices “with origins in the Jewish temple and monastic life.” (Book of Common Worship, p. 828)

“Daily prayer has been a way of life and practice of faith for the people of God for millennia, from the psalmists of ancient Israel through the saints of the Christian Church.” (ibid.)

That is why I am so eager to continue what we started in Advent: midweek prayer services for Lent. I am grateful for the support and collaboration that Pastor T.J. and Pastor Jay have shared with me in this.

Because of the strong Lutheran tradition of Vespers and the Anglican traditions of (Choral) Evensong and Compline (Night Prayer), this tradition is often thought of as a very musical one. Or at least, evening worship seems to offer a creative vehicle for musicians who are eager to make special offerings that either don't fit the timbre or time of worship for the Lord's Day.

Evening worship is dramatic. Gathering in surrounding darkness highlights the imagery of “Christ: the light of the world” and how the light of Christ is one that “even death could not extinguish.” (BCW, p. 834). A more in-depth description says,

“The heart of the Christian gospel is the death and resurrection of Christ, which is celebrated every Sunday. The service of light [included within evening prayer liturgies] is a dramatic portrayal of creation, when in the darkness “God said, ‘Let there be light,’” and of the new creation, when from the darkness of death God called forth his Son... The lighting of the lamps is a re-enactment of creation and also of the resurrection.” (Manual on the Liturgy-LBW, p. 276)

Some pastors and musicians have argued that a midweek evening prayer opportunity like the one we plan to offer can actually become the favored prayer tradition or the “best night” of the week. A midweek opportunity to re-focus, center, and worship in a more introspective format can be rejuvenating to one's spiritual and mental well-being. It's fair to say I have felt this myself- perhaps only because as a worship leader it often seems easier to worship myself in the simpler daily liturgies- when Sunday can often feel like a much more involved production with many moving parts. I know, however, that some of the better hymns, chants, psalm settings and also choral and organ repertoire seems to have root in evening worship. Ties to monastic traditions also contribute to that- I have experienced evening worship services where in unison chant melodies and Latin texts or translations of traditional Latin texts seem somehow more deeply profound.

In the season of Lent, we will largely follow the same format we used in Advent. However, because we have a tradition of hosting Lenten organ recitals, we thought we would make special addition of augmented musical goals this time.

I have invited several young organists from the region and very nearby places to offer leadership from the organ. They will be providing preludes to our services and they will represent our recital tradition by providing extended postludes, or 15- to 30-minute ‘post-service recitals.’ This will give us a chance to enjoy some of the rich and vast repertoire for this holy season. Additionally, though, I have invited working church musicians who will collaborate with me on the music for the hymns and the Phos Hilaron (“O Gracious Light,” Greek 3rd century hymn of light). I can't wait to share in that with them and to offer you a glimpse of their unique improvisation styles and approaches to hymn accompaniment, as well as my own.



Guest Organists

March 3—Dr. Kartika Putri

A native of Indonesia, Dr. Putri is the Minister of Worship and Music at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wausau, WI. She has performed as a recitalist in the United States, Germany, France and Indonesia. She is passionate about building community through music.

March 10—Nathan Elsbernd

Mr. Elsbernd hails from Mason City, Iowa. He is a sophomore at Luther College and a student of Dr. Gregory Peterson.

March 17—Austin Ferguson

Mr. Ferguson is the Carillonneur for the Mayo Clinic and Musician at the Unitarian Universalist Church here in Rochester. He will offer both selections from our sanctuary AND from atop the Plummer Building!

March 24—Katie Moss

Mrs. Moss is Organist and Handbell Director at Messiah Church in Plymouth, MN.

March 31—John Stender

To commemorate his 334th birthday, all of the organ repertoire for this service was composed by J.S. Bach.

A FESTIVAL OF MUSIC PRESENTS ...

An Afternoon with Dan Chouinard

Please join us via YouTube and Facebook at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 7 for an afternoon of storytelling, accordion, piano, and voice. Dan will take us on a “sure-to-be-noteworthy” journey. We hope you will tune in!



Christian Education & Youth Group News

Susanna Stone, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education

Save these Dates!

While the exact format, timing, and details remain uncertain, the Christian Education Committee is currently planning 2 events for 2021. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

Saturday, April 3: Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt and Craft Pick-up

Depending on continued low numbers of COVID cases in our county, we are tentatively planning on having an outdoor Easter Egg hunt. Various time slots will be offered, family registration is required, there will be a limited number of people and families per time slot, all depending on COVID guidelines. Stay tuned for more details and the registration link.

Week of August 2: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

While the exact format (in-person/virtual), days, and times are TBA, we are planning on hosting this summer's VBS during the week of August 2. Details will be announced as plans are made.

We are also pleased to provide the following Christian Education and Youth Group programming!

- + **Live Zoom Sunday School through One Room Zoom**
 - + **Pre-k through Grade 5 on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am**
 - + **Middle and High School on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.**
- + **Sunday School video option**
- + **Adult Christian Education**
- + **Youth Group**

We're Praying for You!

In the weeks and months to come, do not be surprised to receive a postcard from the Youth Group or a Sunday School class. We have begun a new program where an FPC member/family is randomly selected each week and we pray for them during Youth Group and Zoom Sunday School. The family/member prayer recipient will then receive a postcard letting them know they are in our prayers.



Susanna

Introducing Jim and Jodie McGill, *Phyllis Schmid*

FPC has supported Jim and Jodie McGill, mission co-workers in Niger, West Africa but currently living in Georgia due to Covid restrictions. Prior to serving in Niger, they worked in Malawi for 20 years. They have six adopted children.

Greater than 80% of the land in Niger is covered by the Sahara desert. The country is considered last among world countries in level of education and poverty. French is the primary language along with indigenous languages. Only 2% of the country is Christian but there has been a Christian church presence for 60 years.

Jodie has worked to establish a nursing school from 2017-2019 with four students last year and five students in 2021. She also teaches medical English to residents, medical lab students and nurses.

Jim works with well drilling. More than 80% of the people have no toilets, latrines or safe water. The goal is to provide safe sanitation and the ability to wash hands since the onset of COVID. Hand-dug wells may be 150-200 feet deep and are often contaminated with dirt. Cattle are used to bring up water buckets or women pull up buckets from more shallow 80-foot deep wells. Jim is looking for foot-operated pumps to ease this work and utilize low cost supplies that are easily repaired by the local people.

Jim also is building menstrual hygiene latrines to provide privacy for girls and keep them in school. A Presbyterian Women project provides reusable pads and education to decrease the stigma.

The priority for all work in Niger is to meet the physical and mental needs of the people before introducing spiritual aspects.

Thank you for your support of Jim and Jodie McGill and all mission co-workers who are serving in very difficult and dangerous global situations.

Bdecan Presbyterian Church Ministry Team, *Marylynn Aalderks*

The FPC Bdecan VBS Mission Team is hoping to provide a three day VBS at the Bdecan Presbyterian Church in North Dakota in July; however, the COVID situation is still very uncertain. We need to continue monitoring, both here and in North Dakota, to assure that our team members and the people of the Bdecan Church are all immunized and the COVID situation is resolved. If we cannot go this summer, we will try to go to the Bdecan Church over a weekend in September to provide a fun weekend of church experience for the children of the church. We let Rosie Helland, the new youth and community outreach coordinator of the church, know and she and the church members are pleased to see us either way!

Rosie and the people of the Bdecan Church would like to express their appreciation for the generous donations sent to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains to help fund the food bank and the winter clothing for children at the Bdecan church. They usually provide monthly food boxes for about 20 families. During the COVID crisis, they have been providing food boxes to 70-80 families a month. They also appreciate having winter clothing for the children. It has been bitterly cold in Tokio, North Dakota, with actual temperatures of -30 degrees and wind chills down to -60 degrees, even colder there than here. They appreciate warm clothing for the children to wear both outside and inside when it gets so cold.

Many of the adult members of the Bdecan Church have been hit hard by COVID, but they are recovering and we have not been notified that any of the people that we know and work with from the Bdecan Church have passed away. All of the Spirit Lake Nation has been troubled by COVID with illnesses and deaths. The tribal health services have started an aggressive immunization program for the Native Americans making it possible for adults over age 50 from the reservation to be immunized. Following cases and deaths on-line seems to indicate that both have stabilized for the time being, which is wonderful.

Thank you for your continuing interest in helping the people of the Bdecan Presbyterian Church, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Seizure Awareness

March 26th is Epilepsy Awareness Day. One in 26 people in the US will develop epilepsy at some point in their life. A seizure is a burst of uncontrolled electrical activity in the brain that can affect muscles, movements, behaviors, sensations or awareness. Most of us think of a grand mal seizure when a person falls down with loss of consciousness and muscle contractions, but there are many other types.

What should you do if you see someone having a seizure? Remember three S's: **Stay**, **Safe** and **Side**.

- S** *Stay* means to stay calm, stay with them, check for a medical ID, and time the seizure.
- S** Keep the person *Safe* - do not restrain them, do not put objects in their mouth, and move or guide them away from harm (for example, sharp edges.) Rescue medications can be administered if available and prescribed by a healthcare provider.
- S** Turn them on their *Side* - keep their airway clear, loosen tight clothes at the neck, and place something soft and small under their head. Call 911 if this is their first seizure; the seizure lasts more than 5 minutes; the person does not return to their previous state; the person is pregnant, injured or sick; they have repeated seizures; they have trouble breathing; or the seizure occurs in the water.

Ariel Boswell, Parish Nurse

(References: Mayo, John Hopkins and Epilepsy Foundation)

First Presbyterian Church	
Financial Statement / January 2021	
General Operating Budget	
Balance (01/01/2021)	\$ 0.00
Receipts (prepaid & January 2021)	95,491.03
Disbursements (January 2021)	<u>81,613.58</u>
Balance (01/31/2021)	<u>\$13,877.45</u>



News from Presbyterian Women

Sylvia Swede, Facilitator

Happenings

- † Five FPC women (Sally Brooks, Carol Cook, Lettie Eckberg, Ruth Saling and Sylvia Swede) are participating in a book study sponsored by the Native American Concerns Committee and exploring the book, *Beneath the Same Stars*, by Phyllis Cole-Dai.
- † Three FPC women (Allyson Maurer [see February 2021 Good News, p. 8], Phyllis Schmid and Carol Shaffer) are participating in the PTCA Anti-Racism Pilgrimage.

Book Study Opportunity

PW/Synod is currently offering a book study sponsored by the Justice and Peace Committee. New books are read every two months and discussed via Zoom. The first book in February was *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. The remaining books for 2021 are *Climate Justice* by Mary Robinson; *The White Devil's Daughter* by Julia Flynn Siler, and *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein. Separate registration is required for each discussion. Contact Kathleen Keefer (kathleenkeefe20@gmail.com) to register.

Circle Meetings via Zoom

Esther Circle on March 15 at 3:00 p.m.
Priscilla Circle on March 17 at 9:30 a.m.
Ruth Circle on March 20 at 10:00 a.m.

The Ladies of the Day

Grandmas, Moms and Daughters.
Like clay shaped by potters.

All made with different hands.
Coming together across many lands.

We are delighted and happy to meet,
Together, individuals in a group to greet.

Time for socializing, talking and sharing.
Women whose lives are lived with caring.

Gathering with laughter outside for fun.
Walking and talking, enjoying the sun.

Ladies we gather and feel the support.
Grateful to be part of our cohort.

By Lea B. Jennings
"Inspired by my lifelong relationship with Presbyterian Women"
Accepted for the March 2021 "I am Woman" exhibit at the Lake City Area Arts Center.

Among our church family

In February, we reported on FPC's "goldens," members who have belonged to our congregation for 50+ years. Unfortunately that list missed several names. The full list is provided below with a sincere apology for the oversight.

Cindy Kunzman, Editor

70+ members

Lonnie Martin
Lowell Meyer
Daniel Moore
Marilyn Postier
Ursula Thedens

60+ members

Louise Bastron
John Brandrup
Nancy Brandrup
Elaine Davis
Jane Destro
Lynn Ferschweiler
William Haas
Melvin Hicks
Judy Hunter
Sandra Holloway
Elaine Jones
M. Pauline Krieger
Charlene Kyle
Robert Kyle
Donna Lee
Robert MacCarty
Janet Purnell

Ruby Rose

Mary Sheridan
Naomi Spiekerman
Ralph Spiekerman
Jon Thiem
Elmer VanDerHeyden
Mary VanDerHeyden

50+-year members

Gail Baker
George Bayrd
Corene Bernatz
Mary Beyerle
Kay Boege
Constance Bowen
Kenneth Boyer
Carol Breen
Sally Brooks
Don Cain
Sondra Danielson
Charlotte Davis
Allen Dollerschell
Marcia Dollerschell
Char Ellefson

Carol Evans

Titus Evans
Ann Groover
Robert Groover
Mary Jo Harper
Laura Irvin
Nancy Kreinbring
Ronald Kreinbring
Judy Kruesel
Jacqueline Kruger
James Martin
Robert McClocklin
Susan McClocklin
Peter McConahey
Marilyn McKay
Neil McKay
Patricia Milam
James Miner
Jean Miner
Douglas Nelson
Joyce Nelson
Norman Nelson
Ardith Ottman
Donald Ottman

Robert Pettit

Mary Ress
Cynthia Sannes
Robert Sannes
Lucy Schmidt
Ruth Seaquist
Shirley Service
Martha Sessler
Frank Sharbrough
Lynda Sharbrough
Roger Shepherd
Carol Smyrk
Charles Smyrk
David Smyrk
Sylvia Swede
Kiyomi Takekawa
Patricia Talen
Marilyn Theismann
Johnson Thistle
Judith Thistle
Jane Tietjen
Dan Tolman
Suzanne Tolman
Donald Wiegert

Welcoming and Nurturing

Allyson Maurer

We are all so ready to get together! We have two activities planned.

Virtual Game Night - Saturday March 20

Join us for fellowship, fun and games as we shrug off the winter blues and get ready for spring. Time will be announced later. Yes, there will be prizes!

Doughnuts and Coffee - Sunday April 18

Are we the only ones who miss the social hour between services? Join us after the virtual service for an in-person, outdoor, socially distant fellowship time.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Social Concerns

Lucinda Clements

Did you know that FPC supports many local charitable organizations that meet the needs of people in the Rochester community who are struggling? This spring, the Social Concerns Committee is hosting speakers from several groups FPC supports to help us learn about the hardships some in our community experience, the organizations working to meet their needs, and specific ways we can help.

To that end, the Social Concerns Committee invites you to a Zoom visit with Dan Fifield who co-founded *The Landing*, a local organization that serves people experiencing homelessness and others in need. *The Landing* operates a day center, provides clothing and meals, and extends additional assistance to people experiencing homelessness in Rochester. Dan will share information about *The Landing's* mission, the local needs that it is meeting, and ways that our congregations can support this organization. He will also take a few minutes to answer your questions. Join us for this **virtual coffee hour** after church on **Sunday, March 7 at 12:00 noon**.

A second coffee hour with speaker Allison Carpenter from *Families First Minnesota* will take place on **April 25**. Ms. Carpenter will discuss the Olmsted County Crisis Nursery.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS ...

March 9—**Isabelle Dyck**, 91
March 17—**Robert Kyle**, 93
March 17—**Ruby Rose**, 99

March 21—**Dan Moore**, 95
March 21—**Charles Smyrk**, 93

... A CELEBRATION ...

Congratulations to **Clayton and Jackie Moen**, who celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary on March 16.

... AND OUR CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of **Kenneth Irvin**, who died on February 16.

First Presbyterian Church

512 3rd Street SW / Rochester, MN 55902

507-282-1618 / www.FPCRochester.org / web@FPCRochester.org

Senior Pastor: Rev. T.J. Parlette

Associate Pastor: Rev. Jay P. Rowland

Director of Music: John E. Stender

Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education: Susanna L. Stone

Sunday worship at 10 a.m. on YouTube and Facebook

Education classes: Sunday School One Room Zoom at 9:30 a.m.;
a weekly video with a Bible story is available on YouTube.

Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ring the bell or call the office at 282-1618 for entry into the church.

Member: Presbyterian Church USA