



# The Good News

## of First Presbyterian Church for April 2016

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it ...  
(Psalm 24.1 [NRSV])

*"Feel the Spirit"*

### Chancel and Youth Choirs, orchestra lead worship April 17

During both the 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship hours on April 17, the Chancel and Youth Choirs and church orchestra will offer the John Rutter Cantata of American spirituals, "Feel the Spirit," written for choir, orchestra, and soloists.

From the spirited "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho" and "When the Saints Go Marching In" to the reflective "Steal Away" and "Deep River" to "I Got a Robe," "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child," and "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit," this much appreciated and enjoyed music will give an added dimension to your post-Easter spiritual journey.

Join us for this celebration in song!

~ Lee J. Afdahl / Director of Music

### Congregation will honor Chancel Choir on April 17

To show our appreciation for the tremendous dedication of our Chancel Choir we are honoring them with a reception on April 17. This is Cantata Sunday, so the choir will be presenting special music at both services. We will gather in the social hall between services to thank them for all their work. Please join us for this time of celebration and thanks and enjoy special treats.

~ Gayle Jones / Welcoming and Nurturing Committee

### Church Picture Directory coming in April

Our submitted photos, a church roster, and the activity pages are at Lifetouch photos now and the picture directory is "at press." We anticipate that the directory itself will be ready for distribution in early April.

Copies are free to those members who had their photo taken by Lifetouch photographers. For the rest of our church family, a directory may be purchased for \$5. We'll let you know in a Sunday bulletin and Good News in Brief when they're here.

~ Jane Hallman / Picture Directory coordinator

### Murasaki Duo closes 2015-2016 A Festival of Music season

Time: Sunday, April 10 at 4 p.m.

Place: First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

FESTIVAL  
OF MUSIC



The Murasaki Duo, which consists of cellist **Eric Kutz** and pianist **Miko Kominami**, was founded in 1996. The Duo has performed throughout the United States, Canada and Scandinavia and has won recognition as one of the leading ensembles in its genre.

Advocates for new music, the Duo actively commissions new works in addition to performing the classics. Their second compact disk, "Duo Virtuoso," was released in May 2015 on the Delos label and features several show pieces as well as Brahms E minor Sonata. Their next recording project, "The Commissions," will include five works commissioned and premiered by the Duo, all written during 2007-2012.

Their Festival of Music program will feature showpieces from "Duo Virtuoso" and the Sonata in F by Richard Strauss.

Both Kutz and Kominami, graduates of Juilliard School of Music, are active as teachers, chamber musicians, orchestral musicians, and soloists. **Eric Kutz**, who served as a faculty member at Luther College for the last thirteen years, was appointed Assistant Professor of Cello at the University of Maryland School of Music in 2015. **Miko Kominami** enjoys a varied career on the faculty of Luther College and as Principal Keyboardist of Orchestra Iowa.

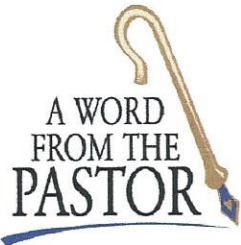
The concert is open to the public and will be followed by a reception in the social hall. A free will offering will be received.

~ Jane Hallman / A Festival of Music

The Murasaki Duo  
in concert  
First Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, April 10 - 4 p.m.







April 2016

by Rev. T. J. Parlette

I was sitting at the light at the intersection of Elton Hills Drive and North Broadway last week when a disturbing sight passed by. A pick-up truck drove through the intersection with a 3-foot by 5-foot Confederate flag flying from the cab. I'm sure it's not the only one in town, but it was a sad reminder for me that the uglier side of human nature is still very much with us. It is a disheartening fact that evil rises by telling us who to hate. Hate those who protest. Hate those who have a different opinion. Hate those who are of a different race or a different sexual orientation. Hate those who are Muslims, or immigrants or refugees. Evil rises by pointing fingers, laying blame and telling us who to hate. But Jesus taught us a different way. Life is not about hate – life is about love. Good triumphs by not listening to words of hate but by loving those the world teaches us to despise.

I remember the first time my youngest son met my brother-in-law Todd. Todd is a black man with long dreadlocks who teaches African-American literature at St. Thomas in the Cities. We were still living in Brookville, Pennsylvania at the time and Juliet's side of the family were all getting together for Christmas. Thomson was about 3 years old, and he had never met a black person before, so Juliet and I were a little nervous about what he would say when he met Todd. When we arrived, you could smell the turkey in the oven and the Christmas cookies were laid out on the table. The whole family came to greet us, and there was Todd. Thomson looked up, pointed at him and said, "You're black." And without missing a beat, Todd pointed back and said, "I know, and you're white." Thomson thought about that for a second, seemed satisfied with that explanation and said, "Let's get some cookies!"

You're black – You're white – Let's have some cookies. If only life was that easy. If only we could acknowledge our differences, accept each other without the need for hate and blame, and just have some cookies. The good news is that Jesus showed us how to live like that. Love others – even your enemies. Love those the world teaches us to hate. That's the Jesus way.

Peace,

T. J.

*Did you know?*

The Christian Education Committee typically offers Vacation Bible School the week following the last day of school.

SOOOOOO ...

**Mark your calendar:  
June 13 - 17, 2016  
for VBS at FPC**

# Stewardship Alive!

## Stewards of the earth

In our consumer culture, it's easy to forget that "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1, NIV).

God calls us to be caretakers of his entire wonderful creation. What a huge responsibility — and privilege — to have stewardship over everything God has made!

Thomas à Kempis, writing in the 15th century, noted the proper attitude toward God's creation: "If your heart were right, then every created thing would be a mirror of life for you and a book of holy teaching, for there is no creature so small and worthless that it does not show forth the goodness of God" (The Imitation of Christ, the Interior Life).

~ Newsletter Newsletter April 2016

### Financial Statement / February 2016

#### General Operating Budget

Balance (1/31/16)	\$ 72,574.57
Receipts (February)	+ 41,720.11
Disbursements (February)	- 62,682.99
Balance (2/29/16)	\$ 51,611.69



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The Good News is published the first of each month for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church (FPC). The newsletter tells the story of the church, promotes its programs, and publicizes opportunities to live out one's faith.

#### Church Staff

Pastor	Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette
Associate Pastor	Jay P. Rowland
Director of Music	Lee J. Afdahl
Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education	Rick L. Morris
Office Administrator	Susan K. Kruger
Facility Manager	Harry E. Coleman
Custodian	Diane M. Johnston-Arthur
Music Assistant	Kathleen M. Kruger
Part-time custodians/security	Steven Aug, Sally Evans, Tami Rinn, Eric Schwartzbauer
Child Care Workers	Valerie Asleson, Kelly Bock, Margie Schaff
Newsletter Editor	Carol J. Evans
Parish Associates	Anneliese Opitz, Roger Ring, Carol Shaffer, James Walker

Sunday services of worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.  
Education classes: Sundays at 9:40 a.m.  
Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;  
Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-noon  
Visit our WEB site at [www.FPCRochester.org](http://www.FPCRochester.org).

**The mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Rochester  
is to reflect God's love for all people  
by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**



## Jay Rowland overwhelmed by celebration February 28

I'm writing to express my profound thanks to this congregation for the wonderful celebration of my Fifteenth Anniversary here at FPC. The gathering in the social hall was such an outpouring of love (and awesome food!). I felt God's love and blessing expressed through every person who was there, and many who weren't there who sent cards and emails. I was overwhelmed by all of the kind and supportive memories that were shared. May each testimony bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ and help make up for any situations and people I failed along the way.

My siblings honored me with their surprise attendance: my sisters **Suzanne Paulson** and **Anna Lennick** all the way from Wisconsin; my brother **Greg**, his wife **Rebecca** and their kids **Miles** and **Natalie** from Minneapolis, joining my dad who I knew was coming; along with my wife **Käri** and our kids **Hannah**, **Lilly** and **Calvin** (**Ellie** is away at college). For most of them it was the first time they have heard me preach. Their presence made an unforgettable day all the more precious.

I thank **Gayle Jones** and the Welcome and Nurture Committee for planning this and the other occasions celebrating how the Lord has blessed us through this wonderful community of faith known as First Presbyterian Church. Thanks also to **Warren Potter** for his ministry of photography.

My call to this church has been a life-giving experience and an enormous blessing to me and my family. All along during the program I felt like standing up and interrupting: "hold on: I'm the one who is most blessed by this ..." rather than the other way round. I suppose that's what's called "a God thing." Thank you again from the heart of my heart!

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Jay Rowland*

## Potluck lunch celebrates Jay Rowland's 15 years at FPC

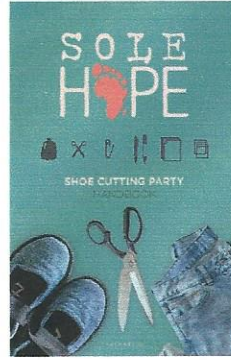
On February 28, we celebrated Jay Rowland's 15 years of loving service at FPC with a potluck dinner. We had an overflow crowd...over 130 people! Thanks so much for all the good food and fellowship.

A special thanks to **Dan Wentz** who was our Master of Ceremonies and to the members of the Welcoming and Nurturing Committee (**Jane Murl**, **Patti** and **Lowell Meyer**, **Jean Abels** and **Gayle Jones**) and to our One Timers who pitched in to set up extra tables and handle the extra load of dishes and clean up: **T.J. Parlette**, **Sally Evans**, **Conor Jones**, **Diane Grill**, **Cindy Kunzman**, **Karen Sessler**, **Margie Schaaf**, and **Lynn Postier**.

*~ Welcoming and Nurturing Committee*

*I have read in Plato and Cicero sayings that are wise and very beautiful; but I have never read in either of them: Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden. (St. Augustine)*

## It's a Party! You're invited!



After the 11 a.m. church service on April 24, FPC youth will host a "Shoe Cutting Party" in the social hall to support the charity Sole Hope.

Sole Hope provides closed toed shoes and the medical care required to remove parasites from the feet of Ugandan children. At our party, we will cut and bundle the denim "uppers" necessary to make these shoes. Our work will then be shipped to Uganda where Sole Hope shoemakers will sew the uppers together and add rubber soles.

The shoes will be distributed to children who receive care at Sole Hope's medical clinics. Often these are the first pair of shoes that a child has ever worn. For more information about Sole Hope visit [www.solehope.org](http://www.solehope.org).

### Turn your old blue jeans into Hope!

FPC youth are collecting used denim blue jeans to use at our Sole Hope shoe cutting party (see above). There's a box in the atrium for your donation.

### Partners wanted!

We need 8-10 adult volunteers to co-lead tables of shoe-cutters on April 24 and to help answer questions about the cutting and bundling process. If you attended last year's party then this opportunity is for you!

Contact [LucindaClements@me.com](mailto:LucindaClements@me.com) for more information.

*~ Lucinda Clements / Sole Hope coordinator*

## Kitchen appliances for sale

When the Implementation Committee renovates the church's main kitchen this summer, almost everything in the current kitchen will be removed. Because we are getting new appliances, cupboards and counter tops, we need to find homes for the current ones.

The following items are available for purchase: side-by-side refrigerator, chest freezer, commercial grade refrigerator, commercial grade stove (with two ovens, six burners and a griddle), and a set of stacked ovens. The center island block is available as well as any of the wooden cabinets. A double sink is part of one of the cabinets. We also have a ceramic hand sink available for purchase. The cost of any of the items is negotiable, but the buyer is responsible for removing the item from the church premises. If there are no buyers, we will try to sell them outside of the church or donate them to Restore or another charity.

Please call **Bev Lewis** (288-8959) if you are interested in any of the items.

*~ Bev Lewis / Implementation Committee*






## Ministry of Music

Lee Afdahl, Director of Music  
Katie Kruger, Director of First Players,  
Cherub and Calvin Choirs

O music ... thou hast taught us to see with our ears  
and hear with our hearts.

(Kahlil Gibran)

Singers and players are reminded of the cantata  
rehearsal on Saturday, April 16, 1-3 p.m.

 <b>Singing and ringing schedule for April</b>			
	8:30	11:00	Both
April 3	Chancel Choir	Special music	No bells
April 10	Chancel Choir	Cherub Choir	Joyous Praise
April 17	<b>Choir Cantata</b> "Feel the Spirit": A Cycle of Spirituals by John Rutter Chancel and Youth Choirs and orchestra		
April 24	Special music	Chancel Choir	Jubilate Deo

## Save July 17 for our all-church picnic

On July 17, we are having an FPC Day at Essex Park. We will begin with our morning worship service at the park and then have a picnic and games. The worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. with food and games to follow. More information will be coming in the months ahead but mark your calendars now so you will be able to celebrate summer with us that day.

~ Gayle Jones / Welcoming and Nurturing Committee

## Wanted: crafty/artsy people

We need some volunteers who will help us make props and perhaps some simple puppets for our July mission trip to the Bdecan Church on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation. These aren't complicated projects but involve more artistic skills or construction skills than we have.

If you have questions or would be willing to help with this work, please contact **Gayle Jones** (mngjones@charter.net or 507-993-2443).

## Summer worship hours set for 2016

The Session has again accepted the recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee to have one Sunday service of worship at 9:30 a.m. during the summer (from Memorial Day Sunday through Labor Day Sunday).

## Opportunities abound for adult study, discussion

<b>Adult education ~ Sundays / 9:40-10:40 a.m.</b> Members have asked for in-depth studies and here are several great opportunities covering a wide variety of topics and interests!	
<b>Bible Study (South Fireside)</b> <i>Kerygma</i>	The Kerygma Class will continue its study of the Gospel of <i>Matthew</i> . The class is led by <b>Jane Goodfriend</b> and <b>Ruth Wals</b> .
<b>Current Issues (Lounge)</b>	April 3 <i>Ripped from the Headlines</i> April 10 <i>Ripped from the Headlines</i> April 17 <i>Ripped from the Headlines</i> April 24 <i>Ripped from the Headlines</i> The Current Issues discussion is led by <b>Al Depman</b> .
<b>Parenting Class (A-101)</b> <i>Grace-Based Parenting</i>	For parents, grandparents, and parental figures, the class will continue its study titled <i>Building Character</i> . The study is facilitated by <b>Ariel Boswell</b> and <b>Lucinda Clements</b> .
<b>Bible Study ~ Wednesdays / 6:30-8:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>Bible Study (Sheldon Jackson Lounge)</b>	April 6 Spring Break - no study April 13 <i>Five Power Prayers in the Bible</i> April 20 <i>Promises, Riddles and Prophecy in the Bible Part 1</i> April 27 <i>Promises, Riddles and Prophecy in the Bible Part 2</i> The Bible Study is led by <b>Al Depman</b>

## Rummage Sale Alert! date changed to April 30



Due to scheduling conflicts, the annual P.W. rummage sale has been rescheduled to Saturday, April 30.

Donations of good quality clothing, books, furniture, toys, and household miscellaneous can be brought to the church beginning Monday, April 18. Sorry, we are not able to accept exercise equipment, computers, or microwaves. Use carts near the atrium elevator to move items to the lower level.

Many volunteers are needed for sorting and pricing during the week of April 25-April 29! Then we need people for the actual sale April 30 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., and after that for a fast clean-up to move boxes and take down tables. Men would be especially welcome at this time!

Mark your calendars now. Sign up at circle meetings to help or on the People bulletin board. Sign up to help as often as you can...or just drop in. Good fellowship and fun are guaranteed! Money raised goes to local, national, and international missions.

Pick-up of items can be arranged by calling **Sally Brooks** (281-5812) or **Judy Kruesel** (250-5128). Thanks to **Fabian Luna** for donating his trailer!

~ Judy Kruesel and Sally Brooks / sale coordinators





## Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

"...getting to know you"

**Holly Ebel** (4075 Berkshire Road SW / Rochester 55902 – 280-0263) joined First Presbyterian in October by reaffirmation of faith. You probably already know her as a food editor for the Post Bulletin. Holly, a first generation American, grew up in Salt Lake City and lived in Hawaii while her husband was in military service and then in Hopkins,

Minnesota before moving to Rochester. In addition to keeping up on what's hot and what's not in food, she enjoys golf, knitting, maintaining friendships, piano, and keeping up with her three adult sons and their families.

**Nadine Luna** (8843 Town Hall Road NW / Byron 55920 – 250-4305), a registered nurse on Gonda 7 at Mayo, was raised on a farm in Freeborn County and lived in Corpus Christi, Texas and Kansas City and Gower, Missouri before moving to Rochester. She has two adult daughters and is transferring from Resurrection Catholic Church in Rochester. When not working, she loves doing anything outdoors, riding horses, hiking, fishing, watching sports, sewing and scrapbooking. Nadine is married to FPC member Fabian Luna.

**Andrew Thoreson** (5694 Colonial Lane SE / Rochester 55904 – 507-993-0427) is part of a 6th generation farm family in Wanamingo where his family has been heavily involved in produce and farmers markets for 4 generations. Andrew is an engineer at Mayo Clinic and his leisure activities include coins and gardening. He and his wife, Nicole, have two children – Calista Younge (9-years-old) and Brynn Thoreson (1-year-old). He is transferring from Wanamingo Lutheran Church.

**Patty Milam** (902 11th Avenue NW #614 / Rochester 55901)  
**Dennis Tucker** (PO Box 333 / Mantorville 55955)

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### Avoiding temptation

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Our 10-year-old loves playing on his father's tablet but may use only the touchscreen because he's misused the keyboard and stylus. One day, after receiving permission to play, he detached and handed over the forbidden objects. His dad said, "Just leave them there," but our son replied, "No, I might be tempted to use them."

We routinely pray, "Lead us not into temptation," hoping God will almost magically keep us out of trouble even as we stray close to enticements: We buy high-calorie treats while intending to "eat healthy." We visit big-box stores and spend money we don't have. We gather with gossipy friends, fully aware that such talk is sinful and harmful.

Perhaps we should be more proactive about removing temptations. Perhaps "Lead me not into temptation" means "God, help me keep myself away from that which tempts me toward poor choices." Amen!

~ Heidi Mann / Newsletter/Newsletter 4/2016

## First Sitter Service a success, second one planned for April 8

Our first Sitter Service on March 11 was a big hit with 7 children and 11 volunteers. Parents got a well-deserved night out and Empty Nesters renewed their "entertaining" skills. Thanks to volunteers **Melissa Walk, Vicki Wintheiser, Dee Tiedeman, Jean Marvin, Bev Lewis, Otis Laurberg, Carol Shaffer, Rosie Lund, Sandra Holloway and Diane Grill.**

We would also like to thank everyone who donated toys, puzzles, books, etc. The toys were in such good shape and the children really enjoyed the variety.

Our second Sitter Service evening will be April 8 from 6-10 p.m. Sign up in the atrium on April 3 or contact the church office and complete a registration card. All children up through age 10 are welcome. Older children are welcome to come be helpers with younger siblings. Any Empty Nesters wishing to volunteer for Sitter Service can contact **Gayle Jones** (507-993-2443 or [mngjones@charter.net](mailto:mngjones@charter.net)).

We are still looking for toys in good condition, particularly toys for babies and children under 18 months (Jack in the Box, wind-up toys), Legos (especially larger Duplo sizes for younger children), an infant play gym/mat, an iron in good condition, DVDs suitable for younger children, bouncing balls of various sizes, random toy figures (people or animals) left over from playsets, and any dress-up clothes/hats ... but we are always glad to get good toys.

~ Gayle Jones / Sitter Service coordinator

from the FPC Parish Nursing program

## Advanced Directives Class offered at First Presbyterian in Kasson

Were you interested in our advanced directives class last year but couldn't attend? Have you or a friend struggled with the painful question of what interventions a loved one would have wanted at the end of life? Are you to start the decision making process to help your family when that time comes?

If so, join us on Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to noon at Kasson's First Presbyterian Church (101 6th Avenue NW – a pleasant 20 minute drive). Several Kasson parish nurses are partnering with us to hold a workshop on a simple, straightforward advanced directive, the 5 Wishes. The cost is \$2 per booklet. If you have any questions, are looking for a ride, or would like to attend, let me know at [fcparishnursing@gmail.com](mailto:fcparishnursing@gmail.com).

~ Ariel Boswell / FPC Parish Nursing coordinator

*Remember: A Parish Nurse will be in our church library the first Sunday of every month to monitor your blood pressure and offer resources on other medical questions you might have. Take advantage of this opportunity between 9:30-9:50 and 10:30-11:00 the first Sunday of each month.*



# Looking for vacation ideas for your family? Try one of these!

*Changing lives in God's woods and waters*

## **Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Deerwood, Minnesota**

A stunningly beautiful camp and retreat setting on Clearwater Lake in central Minnesota, Clearwater Forest has been changing lives in God's woods and waters since 1954. Every day at Clearwater Forest is filled with discovery, adventure and opportunities to explore faith in the context of the Christian camp community. It is an experience like no other.

*Clearwater Forest is a ministry of Christ called to provide faith-building programming, to nurture active Christian community, and to be the faithful steward of God's creation.*

To fulfill this mission, Clearwater Forest provides summer youth camps for early elementary through senior high, women's retreats, spiritual renewal events, non-summer youth retreats, family events, and senior adult program opportunities for all types of groups. The summer camps begin June 10 with Family Camp and run through Senior High camps August 6.

Each camp has a different focus. Call it "something for everyone!" Check out [www.ClearwaterForest.org](http://www.ClearwaterForest.org) for information about the many camps and programs happening this summer at Clearwater Forest!

## **Montreat Conference Center Montreat, North Carolina**

*Montreat is not just a place  
It is a state of mind,  
It is a state of grace.*

For over 100 years, Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina, in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina, has been "a place set apart" for those who journey there seeking a closer relationship with their Creator.

The Montreat Conference Center, as a mission center of the PC(USA), seeks to glorify God by serving the whole Church of Jesus Christ by calling all God's people to a place set apart, for spiritual commitment and renewal, to grow in discipleship, to build relationships, and to prepare one another for Christ's ministry in the world.

Worshippers, adventurers, individuals, families, retreat groups, conferees – they have all crossed a threshold as they passed through the Montreat Gate on a unique life-changing journey.

In the Center for Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the Center for Faith and Life, conferences cover the gamut of experiences ... college and youth conferences, spiritual direction, prayer, worship and music, Christian life, parenting, pottery, stained glass, women's connection, to name a few.

Its summer programs are listed on [www.montreat.org](http://www.montreat.org).



## **Discover Synod School 2016 Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa**

Describing Synod School as "school" or "Bible camp" would not come close to explaining what happens at the annual midsummer ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. Synod School is a special learning and personal enrichment experience for all ages. The week is designed for laity and clergy, individuals and families. Classes and activities are available for adults, youth and children – some separately, some intergenerational – to stretch the mind, nurture the soul, and offer hope.

*Come...and grow in faith through action, relationships, and a centering of the spirit.  
Come...for continuing education, for a special family experience, or for individual growth.  
Come...to participate in a unique experience of Christian community, as we worship, study, play, and live together.*

Synod School 2016 will be held July 24-29 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Theme for the event is *Connecting with Jesus in an Over-Connected World* with convocation speaker John Bell, a popular speaker throughout Europe and North America, a minister of the Church of Scotland and a member of the Iona Community. Morning and evening worship with spirited music and singing, classes on a wide range of topics, bookstore, live music nightly at the Coffeehouse, and much more, are all part of the experience.

The course catalog and registration are available in the church office. Check the web [www.lakesandprairies.org](http://www.lakesandprairies.org) or phone 1-800-328-180 for more specific information.

## **Ghost Ranch Abiquiu, New Mexico**

*Our mission is to enrich lives.  
Our vision is that all might experience God  
through discovery and transformation.*

Open year-round, Ghost Ranch is committed to spiritual development, peace and justice, honoring the environment, and exploring family through the celebration of art, culture and nature. For more than fifty-five years it has been a national education and retreat center owned by the Presbyterian Church. From the beginning, Ghost Ranch has been deeply committed to the preservation and protection of the environment.

Over 300 life-transforming courses are offered each year in areas such as archeology, geology, palentology, drawing, calligraphy, jewelry making, metal arts, photography, painting, pottery, memoir writing, adobe building, and yoga.

Individuals and families come for the courses or for the day or the week to hike, kayak or just to relax. All people of all ages, races, religions and cultural traditions are welcomed to Ghost Ranch. Check the WEB page [www.ghost ranch.org](http://www.ghost ranch.org) for summer programs, family activities, and registration information.





## News from Presbyterian Women

\* Sylvia Swede, facilitator

Circles always welcome visitors and new members! Join us for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. The 2015-2016 Bible study is *Come to the Waters*.

*Esther Circle*: April 18 at 1 p.m. in the lounge.

Hostesses: **Susie McClocklin** and **Jane Hallman**. Devotions: **Char Davis**. Program: TBA.

*Priscilla Circle*: April 20 at 9:15 a.m. in the lounge.

Hostess: **Marylynn Aalderks**. Program: **Regina Mustafa** (CIDI). Project: Birthday Offering.

*Ruth Circle*: April 16 at 10 a.m. in the lounge. Hostess: **Molly Destro-Borgen**. Devotions: **Lucy Schmidt**. Bible Study: **Phyllis Schmid** (lesson #8 from *Come to the Waters*).

*Prayer Shawl group*: April 14 at 1 p.m. in the lounge.

All knitters and crocheters are welcome! If you know someone who would appreciate a prayer shawl, please contact **Susie McClocklin** (288-7772).

## Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women convenes April 23 in Austin

Save April 23 for the Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women of the Twin Cities Area Presbytery at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Austin. PW will pay the registration, which includes lunch, for all who attend. Speakers will tell us about the Global Exchange to the Caribbean and the successful integration of refugees in Austin.

Mission projects to be collected at the Gathering include baby kits, which will go to the Rural Health Initiative in Sierra Leone; Little Dresses, which will go to Reiser Relief in Haiti; and soccer balls. Get your registration to **Peg Parsons** by April 13.

## Registration open for June Synod Gathering in Sioux Falls

The Synod Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota June 15-18. The theme is "Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace."

The registration fee of \$200 covers meals and all programming. In addition, rooms are \$85 plus tax per night; 1-4 persons can share a room for that price and split the cost.

When you register, please let **Peg Parsons** know as PW has some scholarship money budgeted that will be divided among those attending from First Presbyterian.

Join with women from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Iowa, North and South Dakota for fellowship, study, and worship.

We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it. (Madeleine L'Engle)

## Church Family News

### Birthdays

Belated Happy Birthday to **Dan Moore** who celebrated his 90th birthday March 21.

Happy Birthday to **Clyde Newton** who will celebrate his 91st birthday April 21.

Happy Birthday to **Connie Bowen** who will celebrate her 96th birthday April 27.

Happy Birthday to **Jennie Orvis** who will celebrate her 95th birthday April 27.

Happy Birthday to **Don Scholz** who will celebrate his 95th birthday April 30.

### Death

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of **Margaret Knudsen**, who died February 19 in Park Rapids, Minnesota, at the age of 95. Margaret was a member of First Presbyterian for many years before moving to Park Rapids to be closer to her daughter.

## Crafter's Group welcomes young and old



The Crafters Group will meet on Wednesday, April 20 from 3 p.m. on. We are usually done at least by 5:30, so you are welcome to stay for the Wednesday night dinner.

Bring your own project to work on, or join us in making cards for our C.A.R.E. members. All card making supplies are provided.

Please call **Mary Huie** if you have any questions.

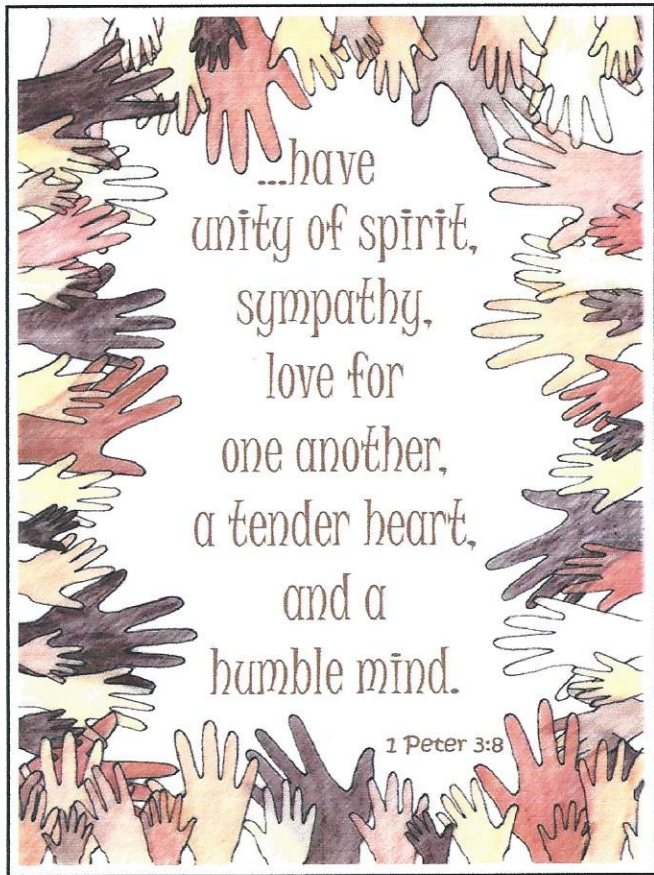
~ Mary Huie (282-9712) / Crafters coordinator

## Record number of women attend retreat at Eagle Bluff

Thirty-one women attended the FPC women's retreat at Eagle Bluff Environmental Center March 11-13. Thanks to the planning committee: **Alice Kerr, Judy Smithson, Lea Jennings, Cindy Kunzman, Ruth Saling, Peg Parsons, Jane Hallman, Susie McClocklin, and Sara Kluck.**







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## April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday school schedule</b> Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday school / all ages at 9:40 a.m. Calvin Choir at 9:40 a.m. Cherub Choir at 10:20 a.m.			<b>Wednesday youth schedule</b> 4:15 p.m. Alleluia Ringers (grades 2-5) 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir (grades 6-12) 5:45 p.m. Supper 6:15 p.m. Middle/High School youth 7:15 p.m. Joyous Praise bells (grades 6-12)		1	2
No school/flex conference days			No school/Spring Break (4/6-4/8/2016)		No school/Work Day	
3 Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Communion 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings 9:30 AM Blood Pressure/Parish Nursing	4 FPC@Community Food Response	5 Most committees meet/ check w/lead elder 9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Deacons/Lounge	6 NO Wednesday activities 1:00 PM Charter House worship and communion	7 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	8 Sanctuary reserved/FOM 6:00 PM Sitter Service (6-10 p.m.)	9 Sanctuary reserved/FOM
10 Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Joyous Praise rings (both) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings 11:00 AM Cherub Choir sings 4:00 PM FOM/Kutz&Kominami	11	12 9:30 AM Staff meeting	13 Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual FPC@Friendship Place 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Bible Study	14 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	15 Newsletter items due IRS taxes 2015 due	16 10:00 AM Ruth Circle 1:00 PM Chancel/Youth/orchestra rehearse for cantata
It's not easy taking my problems one at a time when they refuse to get in line. (Ashleigh Brilliant)						
17 <b>Choir Cantata</b> <i>"Feel the Spirit"</i> Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Chancel/Youth sing (both) Orchestra (both) 9:30 AM Celebrate the Choir	18 1:00 PM Esther Circle 7:00 PM First Players Spring Concert	19 9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Session/Fireside Rm	20 Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual FPC@Friendship Place 9:15 AM Priscilla Circle 3:00 PM Crafters Group 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Bible Study	21 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	22	23 9:00 AM PW/PTCA Spring Gathering / Westminster Austin 10:00 AM Advanced Directives Class/Kasson
Bring items for Rummage Sale starting April 18						
24 Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Jubilate Deo (both) 11:00 AM Chancel/Youth Choirs sing 12:15 PM Shoe Cutting Party for Sole Hope	25 7:00 PM Endowment Cmte	26 9:30 AM Staff meeting	27 Mail newsletter Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual FPC@Friendship Place 5:45 PM Supper 6:30 PM Bible Study	28 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	29	30 8:00 AM Rummage Sale (8 a.m.-1 p.m.) 1:00 PM Rummage Sale (1/2-price & bag sale) 3:00 PM Rummage Sale cleanup
Bring items for Rummage Sale starting April 18						