

The Good News

of First Presbyterian Church for February 2018

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf to be reconciled to God."
(2 Corinthians 5.20 [NIV])

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper marks beginning of Lent

Join us February 13 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper when we celebrate "getting the fat out" before we begin the season of Lent. On the menu are pancakes and sausages with all the trimmings.

This is a great way to prepare for Lent and to enjoy fellowship with our church family.

No reservations are necessary and there's nothing for you to bring. The supper is sponsored by the Welcoming and Nurturing Committee.

~ Welcoming and Nurturing Committee



Lenten activities offer times for study, reflection, worship

The Lenten season has traditionally been a time when Christians attend to the cultivation of the things of the spirit.

It is not a time to enter into a period of excessive introspection, gloom, and self-denial. Instead, it is appropriate to use the season as an opportunity to take stock of our own lives. For many of us there are too few opportunities to slow down and reflect upon the direction of our hectic, consumer-driven existence. The season of Lent invites us to take time to attend to those aspects of our lives that we often neglect.

During the time between Ash Wednesday, February 14 and Easter, April 1 we invite you to join in these activities:

- ▶ *Ash Wednesday worship with communion with imposition of ashes February 14 at 6:30 p.m.*
- ▶ *Morning worship on Sundays at 8:30 and 11 a.m.*
- ▶ *Bible study on Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. beginning February 21*
- ▶ *Organ recital series Wednesdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m. beginning February 21*
- ▶ *Choir Cantata on March 11 at 8:30 and 11 a.m.*
- ▶ *Worship/Communion on Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m.*
- ▶ *Easter worship on April 1 at 8:30 and 11 a.m.*

A Festival of Music showcases Duo Neglia-Khachatryan

Time: Sunday, February 11 at 4 p.m.

Place: First Presbyterian Church sanctuary

FESTIVAL
OF MUSIC

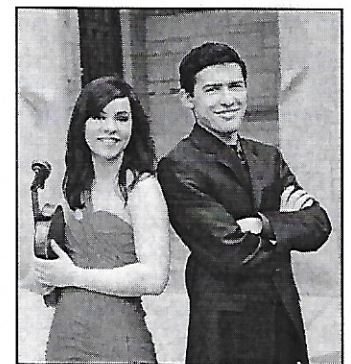


This month we welcome pianist Dr. Grigor Khachatryan and violinist Dr. Dina Maria Neglia-Khachatryan to our Festival of Music series.

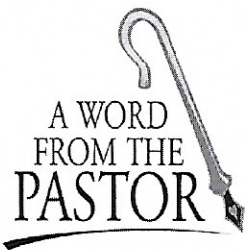
Born in Yerevan, Armenia, Dr. Grigor Khachatryan graduated from Barsej Kanachyan's Music School of Yereva. He continued his education at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, earning degrees in Piano Performance, Composition and Music Theory. Recently he made his debut at Carnegie Hall and completed a concert tour with the Concordia Symphony Orchestra. He is now working on recording and publishing two piano sonatas, is on the faculty at Northern Lights Music Festival, and continues his passion of composing as well as educating young musical minds at Concordia College (Moorhead, Minnesota) as an Assistant Professor of Piano.

Dr. Dina Maria Neglia-Khachatryan earned her Doctorate in Violin Performance at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. Dedicated equally to teaching, scholarship, and performance, she is currently teaching at North Dakota State University Challey School of Music in Fargo, North Dakota. As a performer, Dr. Neglia-Khachatryan enjoys a variety of musical mediums. She has been featured on MPR Classical Radio and has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Europe.

There is no admission fee but a free will offering will be accepted. A dessert reception will follow the concert.



Duo Khachatryan
violin and piano
First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, February 11, 2018



February 2018

by Rev. T. J. Parlette

Moses is the single most important figure in the Hebrew Bible, what Christians usually call the Old Testament. His presence is felt throughout the Christian New Testament. The epic account of his life, together with the deliverance of

the Israelite slaves from bondage in Egypt, is the defining story of the Jewish people.

For Christians, Moses' life serves as the backdrop for much that is found in the Gospels, including the story of Jesus' flight to Egypt, the Sermon on the Mount, many of Jesus' sayings in the Gospel of John, the activities of Jesus around Jerusalem, the Last Supper, and the Crucifixion. In the Gospel account of the Transfiguration, Moses actually appears to Jesus and speaks to him. Moses is mentioned by name more than seventy times in the New Testament, and his life story and his commands are alluded to in nearly every New Testament book.

Come join us this Lenten season as we join Adam Hamilton as he explores the sites of Moses' life from the Nile River to the Red Sea, from Mt. Sinai to the wilderness in his new study "Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet." Using historical information, archaeological data, and the biblical text, Hamilton will guide us in the footsteps of this reluctant prophet who blazed a trail of truth.

The class will be held Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 in the lounge. We will begin February 21 and run through March 28. You may register with the church office. The cost of the book is \$13.50.

Hope to see you in class!

Peace, T. J.

Church Library News for your Lenten reading

We're delighted that many of you have checked out books from the mobile library cart. Look for it in the atrium.

As you may have noticed, Lent begins (Ash Wednesday) on Valentine's Day this year. For this holy season, I'm recommending some of our newest books. These are not Lent-specific, but each offers thoughtful spiritual insights and guidance which make for excellent Lenten reading/reflection:

- *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People*, by Nadia Bolz-Weber.
- *The Year of Small Things: Radical Faith for the Rest of Us*, by Sarah Arthur & Erin Wasinger.
- *Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life*, by Rabbi Harold Kushner
- *Present Over Perfect: Leave Behind Frantic for a Simpler, More Soulful Way of Living*, by Shauna Niequist (forward by Brené Brown!)

~ Rev. Jay Rowland

Stewardship Alive!

Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy." (Thomas Merton)

CWS Blanket Program aids victims of disasters

Sunday, February 11 our church will once again participate in the Church World Service Blanket (CWS) Program.

Help is needed more than ever to assist people affected by hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and fires in many parts of our country and the world this past year. One way to help is to donate to the CWS Blanket program.

By providing not only blankets, but emergency supplies such as clean water, food, tents, mosquito nets and health kits, this program helps people recover from disasters.

Please remember to donate to this worthwhile mission. You will provide much needed assistance and hope to families who may have lost everything.

Envelopes will be in the pew racks or donations can be mailed to the church office any time in February.

~ Britta Youmans / Mission Committee



First Presbyterian Church
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Rochester, MN 55903
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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.

Deadline for submission of material is the fifteenth of the preceding month.

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	Susanna L. Stone
Office Administrator	Susan K. Kruger
Facility Manager	Harry E. Coleman
Custodian	Bob R. Schalau
Music Assistant	Kathleen M. Kruger
Part-time custodians/security	Steven Aug, Vera Brooks, Sally Evans, Jason Kluck, Tami Rinn
Child Care Workers	Esther Labron, Margie Schaaf, Taylor Smith
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

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

Soul Shop is coming to FPC on Saturday, April 28

Statistics show that in a congregation of 100 adults, 6 people are thinking of killing themselves. In any group of 10 high school youth, 2 of them are considering suicide.

Now we have an opportunity to save the lives of people in our congregation who are in the midst of suicidal desperation. This opportunity is a training event/workshop called *Soul Shop™*. The workshop equips participants to minister to people impacted by suicidal desperation including:

1. Adults and youth who are considering suicide
2. Family members and friends who are anxious about a person who may be considering suicide
3. Persons who have lost a loved one to suicide
4. Second Day people – those who have been suicidal in the past but have found a way out of suicidal thinking

The *Soul Shop* workshop demonstrates simple conversational tools and other helpful information that can **save a life**. You can ease the suffering of someone dealing with the hopelessness and isolation of suicidal desperation.

Mark your calendar for this exceptional opportunity on April 28. Contact Rev. Rowland for more information or go to soulshopmovement.org.

~ Rev. Jay Rowland / Associate Pastor

An invitation to a celebration from Pastor Carol Shaffer

Greetings:

Please join us in the social hall from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, February 25 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of my ordination. The Welcome and Nurture Committee is providing tasty treats, **Dwight and Lea Jennings** are providing joyful music, and around 3 p.m. **Bill Oehler** will MC a memory-sharing time.

If you can't attend but would like to share a memory for the celebration, please contact Bill Oehler (1911 Valkyrie Dr NW / Rochester MN 55901 or WMOehler@aol.com)

Along with former pastors **Rev. Marcia Miscall, Rev. Susan Li, Rev. Shirley Harper Cox, and Rev. Carole Lloyd**, I am grateful to serve the church and community of Rochester.

Instead of a gift, feel free to give a donation to First Presbyterian Church, to the Presbyterian Church (USA) Assistance Program

(<http://www.pensions.org/PlansAndPrograms/AssistanceProgram>), or to Seasons Hospice www.seasonshospice.org.

May God continue to bless you all.

Peace,

Carol Shaffer

rev.carol.shaffer@gmail.com

805 23rd St. SE / Rochester, MN 55904

First Presbyterian Church celebrates 157th anniversary, recognizes 50⁺-year members



The First Presbyterian Church of Rochester was founded on February 17, 1861, by Sheldon Jackson. Since then we have traveled the roads of 157 years. Some of these roads have been rough, some smooth, some straight, some winding, but each one has helped reveal to us the love of God working through our lives.

On February 18 we will honor and say “thank you” to 85 “golden” people who have been members for at least 50 years. Their names have been in our bulletins and newsletters as Sunday School teachers, ushers, choir members, stewardship campaign workers, elders, and deacons. Many of them still appear on the church's doorstep regularly as volunteers.

Our most senior member, **Ursula Thedens**, was confirmed at First Presbyterian in 1942. Our oldest “golden,” **Margaret Harris**, joined in 1951. Our youngest “golden,” **Mary Jo Harper**, was confirmed in 1967.

The list of 50+-year members includes

70+-year member	Ralph Spiekerman	Judy Kruesel
Ursula Thedens	Alfred Thedens	Jacqueline Kruger
Clifford Gastineau	Patricia Whisnant	Donna Lee
60+-year members	50+-year members	Robert MacCarty
Edith Albrecht	George Bayrd	James Martin
Louise Bastron	Lucille Bill	Peter McConahey
John Brandrup	Corene Bernatz	Donald McIlrath
Nancy Brandrup	Mary Beyerle	Douglas Nelson
Omer Burgert	Kay Boege	Joyce Nelson
Jane Destro	Constance Bowen	Hilda Nelson
David Ellefson	Kenneth Boyer	Norman Nelson
Lynn Ferschweiler	Barbara Cain	Ruth Pexton
William Haas	Don Cain	Mary Ress
Margaret Harris	Sondra Danielson	Alan Sessler
Sandra Holloway	Elaine Davis	Martha Sessler
Isabel Huizenga	Allen Dollerschell	Roger Shepherd
Charlene Kyle	Marcia Dollerschell	Carol Smyrk
Robert Kyle	Char Ellefson	Charles Smyrk
Lonnie Martin	Bette Ferschweiler	Sylvia Swede
Lowell Meyer	Ann Groover	Kiyomi Takekawa
Dan Moore	Robert Groover	Jon Thiem
Nadene Moore	Mary Jo Harper	Johnson Thistle
Jennie Orvis	Melvin Hicks	Judith Thistle
Jean Peterson	Judy Hunter	Jane Tietjen
Lynn Postier	Kenneth Irvin	Dan Tolman
Janet Purnell	Laura Irvin	Suzanne Tolman
Ruby Rose	David Jones	Elmer VanDerHeyden
Donald Scholz	Elaine Jones	Mary VanDerHeyden
Mary Sheridan	M. Pauline Krieger	Donald Wiegert
Naomi Spiekerman		

Congratulations and thank you for your part in shaping our church! You are an inspiration to all of us. When the rest of us have been members for 50 years, may yet newer members look on us as gratefully and appreciatively as we look on you.

Healthy Relationships



February is the month of Valentine's Day and a great time to think about healthy relationships, romantic and otherwise. Here are five things to think about with your friendships and partner relationships.

- 1) **First, learn to love yourself.** Did you know self esteem predicts relationship satisfaction? If this is an area you struggle in, think about and write down the things you are good at, that you and others like about yourself, and turn to these when you start having some negative self-talk.
- 2) **Look for the best in the relationship.** Focus on the positives in your friend or partner. 1 Corinthians 13, AKA "the Love chapter," has some great tips on this.
- 3) In addition to looking for good things, **feel and express gratitude to those you are in relationship with.** Gratitude increases relationship satisfaction. Reflect on how much your friend and partner adds to your life.
- 4) **Have fun together!** Find activities that you enjoy, whether that is a shared entertainment interest, exercising together, traveling, or cooking together. Making memories together is an integral part of creating the relationship you want.
- 5) **Make time for each other.** Work, busy lives and children are all excuses that we use to justify not spending time one on one. However, it's important to set our priorities - what is more important than the life-long relationships that we are building? Babysitters and our church's great Sitter Service are helpful ingredients to a healthy marriage.

Let me know at fpcparishnursing@gmail.com if you would like a copy of the *Loving Kindness Meditation*, a helpful activity as we learn to better love ourselves and those around us!

~ Ariel Boswell / FPC Parish Nursing Advisory Council

Nominating Committee concludes work for 2017

I would like to thank the members of the 2017 Nominating Committee for their hard work, dedication, and perseverance during our nominee search process: **Jeremy Braun, Rusty Brown, Joe Doppler, Gregg Erickson, Cindy Kunzman, Rosie Lund, Ruth Saling, and Karen Sessler.** And to **Al Depman** for getting us organized.

Thanks to all the elected Deacons, Elders, and Endowment Committee members for serving on the Session and Board of Deacons over these next few years to guide and lead us into a hopeful future through the ministry of Christ. It takes dedication and commitment but is truly an honor and privilege to serve our church in this capacity. We will be praying for God to guide you through these coming days.

~ Jane Murl / Lead Elder 2017 Nominating Committee



Ministry of Music

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

FOM continues Lenten recital series

During the 2018 Lenten season, First Presbyterian Church is again sponsoring organ recitals each Wednesday from 12:15 – 12:45 p.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome!

Recitalists in February are

- February 21 Jeffrey Daehn, freelance organist
Rochester, Minnesota
- February 28 Sebastian Modarelli, organist
Church of St. John the Evangelist, Rochester, Minnesota

Singing and ringing schedule for February			
	8:30	11:00	Both
February 4.	Chancel Choir	Calvin Choir	Jubilate Deo
February 11.	Chancel Choir	Cherub Choir	Joyous Praise
February 14.	Ash Wednesday / 6:30 p.m. (Chancel Choir sings)		
February 18.	Chancel Choir		
February 25.		Chancel Choir	Alleluia Rngrs

Opportunities abound for adult study, discussion

Adult education ~ Sundays / 9:40-10:45 a.m.

Bible Study (South Fireside)	The Kerygma Class will begin a study of <i>The Jesus Movement and the World of the Early Church</i> in February. The class is led by Jane Goodfriend and Ruth Walts .
Current Issues (Lounge)	<i>Current Events: Beyond the Headlines</i> is the theme for the 2017-2018 year. The discussion is led by Al Depman .
Bible Study ~ Wednesdays / 6:30-7:30 p.m.	
Bible Study (Sheldon Jackson Lounge)	<p>February 7 <i>Song of Songs</i> led by Al Depman</p> <p>February 14 Ash Wednesday worship service with communion and imposition of ashes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">###</p> <p>February 21 - March 28 A Lenten Study led by Rev. T. J. Parlette <i>Moses:</i> <i>In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet</i> by Adam Hamilton. Please call the church office to sign up. The book is \$13.50.</p>

♥ Financial Fitne\$\$: giving is good for your heart ♥

Session adopts \$796,326 budget

At its January meeting Session adopted a budget of \$796,326 for 2018. This a 1.1% (\$8,639) increase over the 2017 budget.

The budget will be underwritten by general budget and outreach pledges (\$714,326), one-time gifts (\$16,000), contributions over pledge (\$45,000), plate offering (\$13,000), miscellaneous income (\$7,000), and interest (\$1,000).

Committees were diligent in watching their budgets, and we ended 2017 with a balance of \$37,232 that will be added to the Capital Reserve Fund for special projects, extraordinary expenses or to cover years when we have a deficit.

Budget area	2017 Actual	2018 Budget
Building/Grounds, incl CapM Fd	89,159	92,100
Christian Education	6,967	6,700
Youth Ministry	2,608	3,510
Mission (including designated projects, Unified Mission, Theological Education Fund)	47,791	49,382
Office Services	24,505	24,505
PCUSA Per Capita assessment	24,500	24,000
Personnel/Administration	503,292	533,000
Social Concerns	21,000	21,000
Stewardship/Finance	21,869	22,084
Welcoming/Nurturing	6,793	7,400
Worship/Music	11,714	13,000
Total	\$760,198	\$796,326

Special Offerings raise \$59,751

What a congregation! On behalf of the many people who will benefit from your generosity, we are happy to announce and thank you for the special donations you made in 2017. In addition to the \$57,751 listed, donors supported the anthem fund, Easter brunch, and implementation projects.

Birthday Offering (PW)	1,163
Blanket Program (CWS)	6,590
Channel One/Minnesota FoodShare	6,820
Christmas Joy Offering (PCUSA)	8,282
Deacons Fund	3,003
Medical Missions Offering (PW)	4,700
One Great Hour of Sharing (PCUSA)	8,050
PCUSA Mission Coworker Support	2,000
PDA/hurricane relief (Harvey, Irma, Maria)	11,645
Peacemaking Offering (PCUSA)	4,339
Witness/Pentecost Offering (PCUSA)	4,494

We also contributed food and household supplies to Channel One, Hope Lodge, Women's Shelter, and Dorothy Day, Gift of Life Transplant, and Ronald McDonald Houses.

Through the Sharing Tree at Christmas we helped Dorothy Day House, Alternative Learning Center for new and expectant mothers, MedCity Foundation, and Family Promise.

Financial Statement January 2017 - December 2017

General Operating Budget

Balance (1/1/2017)	
Receipts (2017)	+ 801,320.13
Disbursements (2017)	- 764,088.97
Balance (12/31/17)	\$ 37,231.16



thankful
grateful
blessed

Stewardship 2018: 227 pledging units commit \$704,687

General Budget = \$605,528; Outreach = \$108,798

Range of Pledges	Cumul number	Number pledges as cumulative % of congregation	Cumulative amount pledged	Amount pledged as cumulative % of total pledge
<u>Per year</u>	<u>Per week</u>	<u>pledges</u>	<u>pledged</u>	<u>of total pledge</u>
10000-40200	192-773	14	238,824	33.4%
7000-9999	134-192	22	304,315	42.6%
6000-6999	115-134	30	354,403	49.6%
5000-5999	96-115	40	407,563	57.1%
4000-4999	77-96	53	465,434	65.2%
3000-3999	58-77	77	545,392	76.4%
2500-2999	48-58	85	566,582	79.3%
2000-2499	38-48	106	613,102	85.8%
1500-1999	59-38	120	635,922	89.0%
1000-1499	19-29	157	680,197	95.2%
500-999	10-19	196	705,976	98.8%
Under 500	1-10	227	714,326	100.0%
Total = 227 pledges/382 potential pledges			714,326	

* Of the 155 units from whom we did not receive pledges, we expect about 65 to make a donation in 2018.

Solos Faith and Fellowship small group off to a great start

A new fellowship group was formed in September for those over 50 who are 'solo' worshippers by being divorced, widowed, never married or who worship as a single because their partner does not participate in church programs.

The group focused on forming a close bond by meeting monthly for a year. Members were invited to join in September and October with 13 members joining. Membership was then closed for the year to encourage building a close and familiar relationship.

Since inception, the Solos have had various activities: a kick-off luncheon and get-acquainted time at the church, potluck and visit to Kristin Willaman's apple/pear orchard, attended the show of a Christian comedian, Tim Hawkins, followed by dinner out, adopted a Christmas Anonymous family of four, and a Christmas breakfast and a winter potluck at Holly Ebel's house. The group has really enjoyed getting to know our sisters in Christ.

Members are **Sandy Carroll, Amy Dollerschell, Elizabeth Dunn, Holly Ebel, Sarah Edgerton, Jane Hallman, Cherie Hann, Jan Hosier, Gayle Jones, Cindy Kunzman, Jane Murl, Sylvia Swede, Linda Tillotson and Kristen Willaman.**

The Welcoming and Nurturing Committee would like to support and encourage other small groups to form. We have followed the lead of other churches who use small groups to build fellowship on a yearly format. If you have ideas for other groups that could form, please contact **Gayle Jones** or **Allyson Maurer**, chair of the Welcoming and Nurturing committee. The hope is to start more groups in September.

~ Gayle Jones / coordinator

Sitter Service plans next parents' evening out February 9

Sitter Service resumed Friday, January 12 with 13 children attending. Thanks to the volunteer sitters **Diane Grill, Gayle Jones, Britta Youmans, Otis Laurberg, Dee Tiedemann, Mark Mueller, Mary Huie, Sarah Edgerton, Lea Jennings, Cindy Kunzman, Jane Murl and Marylynn Aalderks.** The next Sitter Service will be February 9 from 5:30 to 9:30 with sign-up in the church atrium on Sunday, February 4 or by contacting the church office or **Gayle Jones** by Tuesday, February 6.

New member class forms February 4

Rev. Parlette will offer a two-week new member class on February 4 and 11 at 9:45 a.m. Anyone interested in joining First Presbyterian Church, or in finding out more about our church, is welcome. If you decide to join, new members will meet with the Session on February 11 and be recognized by the congregation at the 11 a.m. service that day. Please call the church office (282-1618) if you would like to attend.



Susanna Stone
Coordinator of Youth
& Christian Education

February Youth Group News

The FPC Youth Group started 2018 on a great note with a lock-in and service project with two other area Presbyterian youth groups. Eight youth from our church joined ten youth from other Presbyterian churches to spend a night in a converted barn where we played games, shot pool, watched movies, ate (and ate and ate), and spent time getting to know each other better. The next day we traveled to Eagan for two hours of service at Feed My Starving Children. Our table alone packed 25 boxes of food. That's 900 meals, enough to feed one child for almost an entire year!

We used the momentum from that activity to carry us through the rest of the snowy and cold month of January. We made New Years' Resolutions for the youth group, discussed what we'd like to do in 2018, played games, and had fun!

All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us on Wednesdays from 5:45-7:00 p.m. for food, fellowship, and fun!

Youth activities in February

We will meet 4 times in February: February 7, 14, 21, and 28. **Note: February 14 is Ash Wednesday. Youth will meet as usual at 5:45 p.m. for dinner and will then attend the Ash Wednesday service together from 6:30-7:15.** The service will most likely go about 15 minutes or so past our usual 7:00 pm end time.

Save February 17 for snow tubing and pizza!

All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us for a special outing with other area Presbyterian youth **Saturday, February 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost: \$20** (includes two hours of tubing and lunch; scholarships are available). We'll start off with two hours of snow tubing at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch followed by lunch at the Stewartville Pizza Ranch. Registration is required. Contact Susanna **by FEBRUARY 9** if you are interested in attending and/or chaperoning!

Like us on Facebook! Stay up to date on all youth group activities by checking out the youth group Facebook page: @RochPresYouthGroup



Vacation Bible School: Save the Date!
Calling all FPC families and VBS volunteers:

VBS will be back at FPC in 2018!

Save the date: VBS will be held **Monday, June 11 through Friday, June 15 from 9 a.m. until noon.**

VBS registration will begin in the spring.



News from Presbyterian Women

* *Sylvia Swede, facilitator*

Circles continue to meet each month. New members are always welcome. Join us for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. The 2017-2018 Bible study is *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ*.

Esther Circle: February 19 at 1 p.m. in the lounge. Co-hostesses: **Naomi Spiekerman** and **Ginger Kirby**. Devotions: **Sylvia Swede**. Program: **Jane Hallman**.

Priscilla Circle: February 21 at 9:15 a.m. in the lounge. Hostess: **Lois Fye**. Program and devotions: **Judy Smithson** (Lesson 10 in the Bible Study). Project: Items for Ronald McDonald House.

Ruth Circle: February 17 at 10 a.m. in the lounge. Hostess: **Marion Pitts**. Program: **Phyllis Schmid** (lesson #6 in the Bible Study, *Cloud of Witnesses*).

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. the lounge. Join us Thursday, February 8 for knitting, crocheting and fellowship! Please contact **Elizabeth Remfert** or **Susie McClocklin** if you or someone you know would find comfort from a prayer shawl.

“Boxtops for Education” provides school supplies for Kemmerer Village

Keep those boxtops coming! We send Boxtops for Education to Kemmerer Village, a Presbyterian child care agency in Assumption, Illinois, to help purchase school supplies for the children. There is a container for these in the foyer at church. Last year **Juanita Heikes**, organizer, sent in 1328 boxtops.

Thanks to all who provided needed items for Hope Lodge in January.

World Day of Prayer convenes March 2 at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church

Put March 2 on your calendar! Join other Christian women at World Day of Prayer at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (2124 Viola Road NE). The theme for 2018 is "All God's Creation Is Very Good!" written by the women of Suriname. Come for coffee, treats, and fellowship at 10 a.m. followed by the worship service at 10:30.

Calling all crafters!

Crafters Group will meet on Wednesday, February 21 at 3 p.m. in the social hall. Come join us for fellowship as we make cards for our C.A.R.E. members. All supplies will be provided.

~ *Mary Huie (282-9712) / Crafters coordinator*

Church Family News

Anniversaries

Congratulations to **Warren and LaDonna Fay** who will celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary February 14.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to **Janet Purnell**, who will celebrate her 90th birthday February 2.

Happy Birthday to **Norman Nelson** who will celebrate his 92nd birthday February 9.

Happy Birthday to **Isabel Huizenga** who will celebrate her 98th birthday February 28.

Deaths

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of **Aura Jean Peterson**, who died January 6.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of **Beverly Thoma**, who died January 13.

Wedding

Congratulations to **Alex and Kathleen (Kruger) Kuisle** who were married in our sanctuary December 29.

Save March 16-18 for FPC Women’s Retreat

The 2018 theme is based on "Holy Solitude," a Lenten study by Heidi Haverkamp available at thethoughtfulChristian.com.

Activities will include learning about the SE Minnesota outdoors and feeding local birds; Gyotaku (an educational session on the Japanese Art of Fish Printing); music celebration with favorite hymns; puzzles and crafts; Chair Yoga, and Saturday movie night along with review, reflection and guidance from "Holy Solitude" and Sunday morning devotions. Please register in the church office by March 1.

The registration fee of \$120 includes housing and wonderful meals prepared by Eagle Bluff staff, including Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch and St. Patrick's Day celebratory feast; and Sunday breakfast.

We're looking forward to your participation and fellowship! For more information please contact **Karen Sessler** (kasessler@gmail.com), **Cindy Kunzman** (xiantikunzman@aol.com) or **Lea Jennings** (leabjenni@aol.com).

~ *Lea Jennings*

A big thank you to those who helped to decorate and then dismantle the halls of the church for Advent and Christmas. Your willingness to give of your time and enthusiasm is appreciated by all.

~ *Bev Lewis*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
