



The Good News

of First Presbyterian Church for January 2020

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!
(Psalm 150.6 [NRSV])

Committees request \$850,000 for 2020; available funds reach \$789,600

Thank you for your response to our pledge campaign for 2020. Your responses to both the original drive and the supplemental drive have been supportive and we appreciate it.

Including general and outreach budget pledges, the supplemental drive to date, and non-pledged income, as of December 19 we have \$789,600 committed for 2020. To fund committees' current budgets and allow for some growth we need about \$850,000, leaving a negative income gap of \$60,400.

We have asked you to participate in a supplemental pledge because we believe our members are pleased with our current staffing and church outreach and want to have it continue. If you haven't already responded, we hope you will consider helping erase the shortfall in pledges by completing a supplemental pledge or by making an extra contribution to the church. Supplemental pledge forms are available at the welcome desk and in the church office or indicate on your check it is for the shortfall.

More complete information will be available in the Annual Reports and in the February Good News.

Thank you again - you're VSP! (Very Special People)

~ Stewardship and Finance Committee

Annual Reports due January 13

Each year our church activities are summarized in the "Annual Reports to the Congregation." This year these reports must be available to the congregation on January 19, the Sunday prior to the annual meeting on January 26. If you are responsible for writing a report on some facet of our church life, please note they are due **Monday, January 13**. The best ones are sent (prior to the deadline) to Carol via e-mail (fpc_carol@hotmail.com) or a Word attachment to an e-mail!

Thank you for your help!

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us.
(Psalm 67.1)

Annual Meeting presents "State of the Church"

Mark **Sunday, January 26** on your calendar. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will begin at 9:40 a.m. in the sanctuary and end by 11 a.m. Nursery care for infants and Sunday school classes for children through 7th grade will be offered as usual. Youth in 8th grade and up will attend the Annual Meeting. Adult education classes are cancelled.

Since many of you will already be in the building, either stay an extra hour or come an hour early; meet people who attend the "other" worship service; and hear about the work of the church in 2019 and plans for 2020. The budget for 2020 will be presented. Reports of committees and organizations of the church will be available beginning January 19.

Please join us for this important event in the life of our church.

Sunday, January 12 at 11 a.m. we will ordain and install those who were elected to the offices of Elder and Deacon at the congregational meeting in November. Mark your calendar for this important event in the lives of these people and of our congregation.

Deacon / Class of 2022

Jane Murl	Judy Smithson	Tony Smithson
TBA	TBA	TBA
	TBA	

Elder / Class of 2020

Lucinda Clements

Elder / Class of 2022

Nancy Boutelle	Jason Wobig	TBA
Gabe Perkins	Jay Youmans	TBA

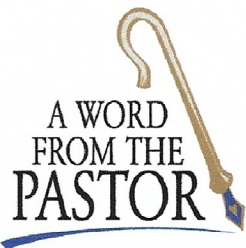
Endowment Committee / Class of 2022

Cindy Kunzman

Nominating Committee / Class of 2020

Shelley Steger	Melissa Wobig	Lindsay Zetzsche
TBA	TBA	

The nominating committee continues to work on filling the positions. If you would like to volunteer, or know someone who would be good for a position, contact Joe Doppler (lead elder), Rev. Parlette, or Rev. Rowland. Thank you!



by Rev. T. J. Parlette

January 2020

By the time you read this, it may already be 2020. But New Year's is always a good time to look back and take stock of the year that has been as well as to look forward to the year that will be. In the U.S., we mark the passing of a year with the ball dropping in Times Square, a

toast of champagne and a kiss with a loved one. Other countries have some pretty fascinating traditions of their own.

For instance, in Mexico and Italy, people wear red underwear to find love. But in Argentina, they opt for pink (Yes, that goes for men and women!) Or, you could opt for yellow and gold or green underwear for wealth and white for peace in the new year.

If you wish to travel more in the coming year, pack your suitcase and walk around the block this New Year's, as they do in Colombia and Ecuador. For people in Spain, the tradition of eating 12 grapes, making a wish for each one, represents every month. Eat them at the stroke of midnight, and fortune may smile on you! Many people in the Southern part of the U.S. believe that eating black-eyed peas or black-eyed pea stew as a New Year's dish can help bring financial prosperity in the New Year (that sounds pretty good, I might try that one!)

This next tradition might be my favorite. In Ecuador, as soon as the clock strikes midnight, families head outside to burn a newspaper-stuffed scarecrow to rid themselves of the past year's bad news and scare away any negativity in the coming year.

In the Church, we don't have a specific New Year's tradition that I'm aware of. But we do begin each year in the season of Epiphany, a season in which we celebrate Christ, the light of the World, coming to the *whole* world. In Epiphany, we celebrate the Jesus who comes not only to the Jews, but to the Gentiles as well. Epiphany is the season in which God, through Jesus, opens his arms especially wide to include not just the chosen people, but *all* people of the world. So let us begin the New Year giving praise for such a generous and grace-filled God!

Peace, T. J.



Financial Statement November 2019

General Operating Budget

Balance (10/31/19)	\$ 67,878.33
Receipts (November)	+ 50,344.36
Disbursements (November)	- 95,736.98
Balance (11/30/19)	\$ 22,485.71

Stewardship Alive!

As we look for the first unsung heroes of 2020, some very special people come to mind—the elders, deacons, and other elected officers completing terms of active service in 2019. Your accomplishments are many and your caring unequalled.

We don't bid you farewell, but we do say “thanks” for jobs well done. You have enriched our lives by your faithfulness and we hope your lives have grown by the service you have given us. Thank you!

Elders / Class of 2019

Joe Doppler	Ron Kreinbring	Brad Narr
Brent Kaslow	Allyson Maurer	Phyllis Schmid

Deacons / Class of 2019

Karin Braun	Sara Kluck	Terry Whiting
Holly Ebel	Susanna Stone	Vicki Wintheiser

Endowment Committee / Class of 2019

Eric Sorenson

Nominating Committee / Class of 2019

Joe Doppler and Lucinda Cutrer (elders), Gregg Erickson, Paul Herr, Katie Lenn, Britta Youmans, and Lindsay Zetzsche (congregation-at-large members), and Andrew Thoreson (Deacon representative).



First Presbyterian Church
512 SW 3rd Street
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Rochester, MN 55903
Telephone: 507/282-1618

FAX: 507/288-0809; e-mail: web@FPCRochester.org

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	John E. Stender
Director of Music Emeritus	Lee J. Afdahl
Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education	Susanna L. Stone
Office Administrator	Susan K. Kruger
Facility Manager	Harry E. Coleman
Custodian	Tyler Sczurek
Part-time music assistants	Katie Kuisle (Calvin and Cherub Choirs) Janine Yanisch (First Players)

Part-time custodians/security

Than Boutelle, Vera Brooks, Sally Evans, Tami Rinn	
Child Care Workers	Maria Alma Candido, Esther Lebron, Brenda Thorson
Newsletter Editor	Carol J. Evans
Parish Associates	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.

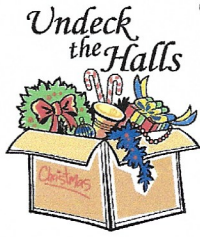
Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;
Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-noon

Visit our WEB site at www.FPCRochester.org.

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

Saturday, January 11 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Volunteers needed to "undecorate" the church



On November 23, wonderful church members and guests helped decorate the church for the Advent season. We have all enjoyed the wonderful trees and wreaths. Thank you to all who helped.

Now that Christmas is past and Epiphany has come and gone, it is time to take down the advent decorations. Everyone

is invited to help on Saturday, January 11 at 9:30 a.m. With many hands, the job will go quickly. We will have refreshments to keep you going.

~ Bev Lewis

and the Welcoming and Nurturing Committee

2019 Sharing Tree serves Christmas spirit to many

Thank you ... to everyone who purchased items for the Sharing Tree this Christmas season. With our generosity, baby clothes and diapers were delivered to the daycare at the Alternative Learning Center and cleaning supplies and household items were delivered to Family Promise. We also purchased personal gifts, such as clothing, games, toys and gift cards for family members who are being helped by the MedCity Foundation and are patients here over the holidays.

This year we added Childhood Cancer Community, an organization that assists families who have encountered a childhood cancer diagnosis, to our Sharing Tree. Gifts were bought for young children through the teenage years and our youth group wrapped these gifts.

All organizations were very grateful to receive these items for the holidays. The committee appreciates the time and money our ever generous congregation gives to God's children in need.

Many blessings in the New Year,

~ Ruth Saling / Social Concerns Committee

Sitter Service resumes January 10

Sitter Service will start the 2020 year on Friday, January 10 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Reservations can be made by signing up in the atrium on Sunday, January 5 or by contacting the church office or Sarah Edgerton (edgertonsarah@gmail.com or 507-536-9637) or Cindy Kunzman (507-421-5055 or xiandikunzman@aol.com) by Tuesday, January 7.

Anyone interested in being a volunteer sitter who is not already on the list, please contact either Sarah or Cindy. If you have discovered after the holidays that you have extra toys, games, books or DVDs, please consider donating gently used items to the Sitter Service. We particularly need items for younger children.

~ Sarah and Cindy / Sitter Service Coordinators

New elders and deacons invited to Souper Start Supper

Newly elected Deacons and Elders are invited to join the current officers for a Souper Start Supper on Tuesday, January 21 at 5:30 p.m. We will meet in the social hall for a warm meal and fellowship as we welcome our new members. The monthly Session and Board of Deacons meetings will follow the supper. Current elders and deacons will host the meal and provide the food. New officers will be guests!



How to simplify your giving

Simplify your life with automatic contributions

- * Operating Budget pledge
- * Outreach Budget pledge
- * Supplementary pledge

Since 1993 we have offered you access to an automatic pledge payment plan through Automated Clearing House (ACH), similar to the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) many of you use to pay utility and other bills. This year 92 pledging units used ACH, either monthly or quarterly. Individual debits range from \$2-2,000 per month and \$25-1,300 per quarter. Some members pay all their pledge via ACH; others pay part of it. The average monthly amount collected through ACH is \$20,263, or about 35% of our monthly pledge income.

We are always happy to add new contributors to the process. We can debit accounts at all financial institutions. If ACH doesn't work out for you, you can cancel anytime by calling the church before the first Tuesday of the month and telling us to "stop."

To sign up, complete an Automatic Payment Authorization, available in the church office, telling the church how much to debit your account monthly or quarterly and return it to the church with a voided check.

Give it a try! If you have any questions, contact me in the church office (282-1618).

Simplify your life with egiving

First Presbyterian Church now offers its members and friends the opportunity to donate via eGiving, either through the church's website or using your mobile device. From the website, go to www.FPCRochester.org, click on the "Donate" link at the top of the page, and follow the instructions. You will have the ability to designate your contribution to several accounts.

From your mobile device, go to "giveplus.com/mobile", scroll down to the Give+ app and download. Find First Presbyterian or zip code 55902. Follow the instructions to create an account or use the email and password you created using Donate on FPC's website and sign in.

~ Carol Evans / church treasurer



Ministry of Music

John Stender, Director of Music
Katie Kuisle, Cherub and Calvin Choirs
Janine Yanisch, First Players

*Music acts like a magic key,
to which the most tightly closed heart opens.
(Maria Augusta von Trapp)*

Thanks to everyone who supported our music ministry during Advent and Christmas

Many thanks are due to the many hearts, hands, and voices who have invested much time and energy for the special events leading up to and surrounding our celebration of Christmas!

Thank you, especially, to the members of the choir, congregation members who played in our orchestra, to the church staff and all their help and interest in logistics, to **Janine and Katie** for their collaborations, and to the frequent mentors of our youth including **Barb Depman, Carol Shaffer and Otis Laurberg**.

All choirs open to new members!

January is a wonderful time to consider your involvement in music ministry! We have passed the summit of Christmas and begin our gradual ascent toward Easter now.

The church choir rosters are not fixed in stone! Perhaps you wish to join us, or have thought about it in the past. Perhaps you haven't yet considered the benefit of growing in your own discipleship through musical participation. Come join us for a rehearsal to observe and see what you think.

I invite you to get in touch with me either on a Sunday or during the week in the office or via phone or e-mail. I'd love to chat with anyone interested in investing some time as a leader in worship through one of our music ensembles.

~ John Stender / Director of Music

First Players plays to full house



Janine Yanisch
First Players
Director

First Players enjoyed playing for a full house at their December 16 concert! The concert featured both our Beginning Band and Concert Band. Music is indeed a unifying force that reaches out to all!

Big thanks to the many who helped with and/or attended this event.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining First Players, please let me know.

Peace,

Janine



Singing and ringing schedule for January

	8:30	11:00	Both
January 5.		Chancel Choir	
January 12.	Chancel Choir		
January 19.	Chancel Choir		
January 26.		Chancel Choir	Jubilate Deo

Pick up your pledge envelopes

Please pick up your pledge envelopes in the social hall by January 31. Envelopes are prepared for adults who contribute regularly (unless you told us you don't want envelopes or you use ACH), for new members, and for children (pre-kindergarten through senior high) who want them.

Because many of you don't use offering envelopes, we've cut down the number we order. If we inadvertently left your name off the envelope list, please let us know. It's actually more cost efficient for us if you use envelopes.

If there isn't a box with your name and you would like one, if you've never used envelopes and you'd like to, or if your children would like a box, we have extras and would be happy to give you one.

Join a committee, be part of the action

Begin your year in the church by getting involved in the work of a committee! We encourage anyone who would like to serve to let us know. Call the church office (282-1618) and we will put you in touch with someone who will be glad to sign you up.

Positions on Building and Grounds, Christian Education and Youth, Mission, Social Concerns, Personnel and Administration, Stewardship and Finance, Welcoming and Nurturing, and Worship and Music are open.

There is more than enough work to go around and we need your participation to make the circle complete.

Poinsettias bring joy to C.A.R.E. members

Many thanks to both the donors of the poinsettias in the sanctuary during the Advent season and the Deacons who delivered them. Our 37 C.A.R.E. members truly appreciate receiving this touch of the season and the connection it brings to the church!

~ Judy Felten / Chancel Guild coordinator



January 2020 Youth Group News

Susanna Stone
Coordinator of Youth
& Christian Education

December was another busy month for the Youth Group. We sent off 6 college care packages, decorated over 100 cookies for the Bear Creek Services Cookie Classic, wrapped 25 gifts for the children

from Childhood Cancer Community, and held our traditional White Elephant Christmas party.

During this first month of 2020, we will develop a list of Youth Group New Year's Resolutions, work on service projects, enjoy fun and games, and continue to grow in fellowship with God and each other.

Note: Due to winter break, there will be no youth activities on January 1. Youth activities resume on January 8.

Adult education ~ Sundays / 9:40-10:45 a.m.	
Members have asked for in-depth studies and here are several great opportunities covering a wide variety of topics and interests!	
Bible Study (South Fireside)	The Kerygma Class continues a study of <i>The Jesus Movement and the World of the Early Church</i> . The class is led by Jane Goodfriend and Ruth Walts.
Current Issues (Lounge)	<i>Current Events: Fighting the Tide of History</i> is the overall theme for the 2019-2020 year. The discussion is led by Al Depman.
Bible Study ~ Wednesdays / 6:30-7:30 p.m.	
Bible Study (Sheldon Jackson Lounge)	<p>January 8 The Wordless Book: Gold page - Heaven</p> <p>January 15 The Wordless Book: Black page - Sin</p> <p>January 22 The Wordless Book: Red page - Jesus</p> <p>January 29 The Wordless Book: White page - Salvation</p> <p>February 5 The Wordless Book: Green page - Spiritual Growth</p> <p>February 12 The Wordless Book: Blue page - Witnessing</p> <p>February 19 Bible News Update</p> <p>February 26 Ash Wednesday service; no Bible study this week</p> <p>Al Depman leads the Wednesday evening Bible studies.</p>

Statements will be mailed second week in January

We will mail final statements for 2019 about January 9. The statement format will list each charitable eligible contribution made to First Presbyterian during 2019. For those who itemize deductions on their income tax return, this format meets the IRS requirement for substantiation of contributions.

from the FPC Parish Nursing program

January: Vital Vitamin D

In these short dark days of winter, we all feel like we're not getting enough sunshine. If you're not, you may need the sunshine vitamin— Vitamin D.

What does it do? Vitamin D helps your body absorb calcium to ensure strong, firm bones. Sufficient vitamin D may also be linked to lower rates of cancer, multiple sclerosis, depression, and cognitive decline.

How do you get it? Vitamin D is the sunshine vitamin. Our body can produce it by itself as long as we get enough sunlight on unprotected skin. Even sunscreen stops that process. We can also get it in fortified milk, cereal, and fatty fish like salmon.



Should I take a supplement? It depends.

You should especially consider it if you have darker skin (which makes it harder to produce Vitamin D), you have intestinal problems that may make it hard to absorb Vitamin D, you are overweight which can dilute your Vitamin D, or you're over 50, which means your body is less efficient at producing Vitamin D. Excessive Vitamin D has side effects too but generally this is one of the safest and best tolerated vitamins.

How much should I take?

Babies up to 12 months: 400 international units (IU)
Ages 1-70: 600 IU
70+: 800 IU

Vitamin D does interact with several medications so discuss use with your doctor or care team pharmacist.

Sources: Mayo Clinic article "Vitamin D," article by Twin Cities fitness expert Chris Freytag

~ Ariel Boswell / FPC Parish Nursing coordinator

Per Capita assessed at \$36.50 per member for 2020

As local church members, we have an obligation to support our higher judicatories. This per capita assessment supports overhead expenses of our church, including presbytery, synod, and general assembly.

The amount due each judicatory is set at the particular unit's meeting during the summer and is based on membership on December 31 of the previous year. Our membership on December 31, 2018 was 671. The assessment per active member includes \$22.05 for presbytery, \$5.50 for synod, and \$8.95 for general assembly.

Even if you choose to not pledge, we urge you to consider making a donation of at least \$36.50 per member to help us underwrite this budget item of \$24,491.50. Thank you!

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

Calling all women and men, youth and adults

You are needed as an usher

With the recent deaths of several faithful ushers, the relocation of others away from Rochester, and resignations due to health issues, we need to replenish our ushering teams.

Do you know we need over 80 ushers in our church program, at least eight scheduled for every service? This is an opportunity for women, men and youth to serve the church in an important capacity. Ushers serve at either the early or late service for one Sunday each month. This is a meaningful way to contribute that takes a minimum of time and allows you to greet and meet members, friends, and visitors to our church. We try to have enough ushers on each team so if you must be out of town (or on call) on your Sunday, there are others to cover.

These ushers would welcome your help.

Ken and Marylynn Aalderks, Clement Akogyeram, Chris Bauch, Jay Beck, Richard Bennett, Barbara and Ken Boyer, Jeff Britton, Jon Closson, Amy Dollerschell, Allen Dollerschell, Holly Ebel, Titus Evans, LaDonna and Warren Fay, Judy Felten, Jane Hallman, Dwight Jennings, Dwight Jones, William Karnes, David Kerr, Brad and Sara Kluck, Ron Kreinbring, Cindy Kunzman, Robert Kyle, Bev and David Lewis, Susan and Robert McClocklin, Michael McDonough, John McKee, Clayton Moen, Mark Mueller, Dudley Parsons, Mark Pileggi, Vicky and Tom Pileggi, Marion Pitts, Warren Potter, Jeff Remfert, Denise Ring, Myron Rostad, Douglas and Rosaline Rovang, Bev Salomonsen, Robert Sannes, Laury Schalau, Alan and Martha Sessler, Frank and Lynda Sharbrough, Tim Smith, Ralph and Naomi Spiekerman, Clarke Stevens, Kiyomi Takekawa, James Talen, William Tremaine, Elmer VanDerHeyden, Dan Wentz, Jay Youmans, and Tim Zetsche.



Yes, I want to join this great group of people. Add my name to the list of ushers.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone and/or e-mail _____

Preference for Sundays (please circle choices)

1st Sunday 2nd Sunday 3rd Sunday
4th Sunday 5th Sunday

Which service (please circle choices)

8:30 service 11:00 service either service
evening services

To sign up, call Titus Evans (282-9938), usher coordinator; send an e-mail to fpc_carol@hotmail.com; or complete this form and return it to the church office.

Thanks!

An update on the mission field from the Middle East to South America

The Middle East has many lessons to teach the church. In Iraq the church has remained the faithful remnant despite war, sanctions, and upheaval. In Lebanon the church moves forward amid protests, poverty, and instability. In Syria the church is rebuilding after invasion, strife, and migration. In each of these countries the church has served as a model of resiliency and faithfulness.

Turkey/Syria conflicts take toll on population

After the U.S. troops withdrew and Turkey invaded northern Syria, three of the eighteen Presbyterian churches have been caught in the conflict. The churches and their families are now heading into a financial crisis, as well as a humanitarian one. The price of meat has risen to \$10/kilo (an average salary is \$80/month). Heating fuel is becoming scarce and expensive as cold weather sets in. The city water service in Hasakeh has stopped after the source spring was bombed, requiring the purchase of bottled water. 300,000 Syrians have been displaced from surrounding villages and will need to be cared for in the cities. Some of your mission funds have been sent to the Emergency Appeal for Northeast Syria.

Venezuela suffers economic crisis

According to the United Nations, more than four million Venezuelans have left their country. Those that remain in Venezuela are struggling. Despite the severe economic crisis, the Presbyterian Church of Venezuela has been demonstrating grace in many ways. Thanks to donations, thousands of food baskets have been distributed and medications have been provided to members and friends who could not afford them. Your mission funds have also supported the Venezuela Appeal.

The Egyptian Presbyterian Church is growing and is becoming a model for new church development and revitalization.

Would you like to see the church in action firsthand? The Outreach Foundation is taking trips to Lebanon/Syria May 18-28 and Egypt March 5-16. There are also trips to Haiti (May 30-June 6), Guatemala (March 14-22) and Cuba (October 3-10). For more information, contact info@theoutreachfoundation.org

~ Sylvia Swede/Mission Committee

*Begin anew ~
Every morning lean thine arms awhile
Upon the windowsill of heaven
And gaze upon thy Lord.
Then, with the vision in thy heart,
Turn strong to meet thy day.*

~ Thomas Blake



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

News from Presbyterian Women

* *Sylvia Swede, facilitator*

Circles continue in January. New members are always welcome. Pick a Circle based on the most convenient time for you, or try them all and then decide!

The 2019-2020 Horizons Bible Study is *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*.

Esther Circle: Monday, January 20, at 1 p.m. in the lounge. Co-hostesses: **Marsha Dollerschell** and **Kiyomi Takekawa**. Devotions: **Elizabeth Remfert**. Bible Study: **Sylvia Swede** (Lessons 5 & 6).

Priscilla Circle: Wednesday, January 15 at 9:15 a.m. in the lounge. Hostesses: **Jan Hosier** and **Nancy Boutelle**. Devotions: **Judy Smithson**. Program: **Judy Smithson** (Chapter 1 in the Bible Study) Project: Paper products for Hope Lodge.

Ruth Circle: Saturday January 18 at 10 a.m. in the lounge. Hostess: **Marion Pitts**. Devotions: **Britta Youmans**. Lesson: **Phyllis Schmid** (Lesson #5 in the Bible Study "Love Carved In Stone").

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Thursday, January 9 at 1 p.m. in the lounge. Join us for knitting, crocheting and fellowship! Please contact **Elizabeth Remfert** (269-5272) or **Susie McClocklin** (288-7772) if you or someone you know would find comfort from a prayer shawl.

January is FPC's month to furnish paper products and other requested items for Hope Lodge. A list of needed items and a box in which to put your contributions are in the foyer. Thank you for your help.

Instruments of praise

Some innovative musicians play instruments that actually melt at their fingertips. Their ice creations — everything from drums and a pipe organ to harps and didgeridoos — make awe-inspiring sounds (search online to hear for yourself).

The unique challenges posed by dissolving instruments seem to increase their impact. "ICEstruments" sculptor Tim Linhart says concertgoers, whose bodies also are largely composed of water, often feel a "spiritual connection" to the music.

Although people don't melt, our physical bodies eventually return to ashes and dust. Despite that impermanence, God created us as wonderful instruments to make joyful noises for him: "Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!" (Psalm 150:6).

~ adapted from The Wired Word

Church Family News

Anniversaries

Congratulations to **Robert and Ann Groover** who will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary January 12.

Births

Congratulations to **Alex and Katie Kuisle** and **Gary and Susan Kruger** on the birth of their daughter and granddaughter, **Holland Mary Kuisle**, November 18.

Congratulations to **Adrienne Walts** and **Ruth Walts** on the birth of their daughter and granddaughter, **Marit Charlotte Ruth Walts**, Wednesday, December 4.

Deaths

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of **Donald McIlrath**, who died December 7. Don's memorial service will be April 18 at FPC.

The memorial service for **Beverly Olander**, who died November 18, will be January 5 at 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian.

Calling all crafters!

The Crafters Group will meet Wednesday, January 15 at 3:00 in the social hall to make cards for our C. A. R. E. members of the congregation. All materials (including ideas) are supplied.

~ Mary Huie (282-9712) / Crafters coordinator



Focus on
Building and Grounds
from the stewardship brochure

Building and Grounds

The good news is that our building is a solid and well-built structure.

Our mission continues to be providing the physical environment enabling our church to pursue its missions and goals. This continuing effort is always a challenge given the age of our building. Therefore, if we are able to maintain the integrity of the building envelope, our church structure will be secure for years to come. We also realize that the congregation loves the worship and meeting spaces that we have.

For the coming year, we do not plan any major projects and will focus on maintaining the areas that need attention:

- carpeting, vinyl flooring, and painting where needed.
- security and safety concerns.
- address moisture intrusion issues in the stone walls of the sanctuary should we find building leaks that are apparent.

Certainly as anyone sees a condition that needs attention, please let the office know and we will address any concern. (Ron Kreinbring)



First Presbyterian Church
P. O. Box 906
Rochester, Minnesota 55903-0906

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January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday morning schedule Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday school / all ages at 9:40 a.m. Cherub Choir at 10:20 a.m. Calvin Choir at 9:40 a.m.			1 Happy New Year! Church closed No school / Winter break (12/23/19-1/3/20)	2	3 NO school/flex confer...	4 11:00 AM Memorial Service/Bev Olander
5 Communion Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) 9:30 AM Blood Pressure check 11:00 AM Chancel Choir sings	6 <i>Epiphany</i> School resumes for RPS students FPC@Community Food Response	7 Most committees meet/ check w/lead elder 9:30 AM Staff meeting 11:00 AM Grief Support Grp 6:00 PM Finance mtg. w/cmtre reps	8 FPC@Friendship Place 1:00 PM Charter House worship and communion 6:30 PM Bible Study/ lounge	9 Mail 2019 year-end statements 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	10 5:30 PM Sitter Service (5:30-9:30 p.m.)	11 9:30 AM "Undecorate" the church party
12 Baptism of the Lord Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings 9:30 AM New officer orientation 11:00 AM Ordination/Installation of officers	13 All annual reports due	14 9:30 AM Staff meeting 1:30 PM Kitchen Guild	15 Newsletter items due FPC@Friendship Place 9:15 AM Priscilla Circle/ lounge 3:00 PM Crafters Group/SHall 6:30 PM Bible Study/lounge	16 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	17	18 10:00 AM Ruth Circle/ lounge
19 <i>Pick up Annual Reports</i> Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings	20 1:00 PM Esther Circle/ lounge NO school/MLKing Day Church closed	21 9:30 AM Staff meeting 5:30 PM Souper Supper / Deacons & Elders (W&N) 7:00 PM Deacons/south fireside 7:00 PM Session/Fireside Rm	22 FPC@Friendship Place 6:30 PM Bible Study/ lounge	23 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	24 NO school-PD/Work ...	25 9:00 AM Presbytery/ Church of the Way-Shoreview
26 Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Jubilate Deo (both) 9:40 AM Annual Meeting 9:40 AM SS/Gr 7 up attend annl mtg 9:40 AM SS/through gr 7 only 11:00 AM Chancel Choir sings	27 7:00 PM Endowment Cmte	28 9:30 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Chancel Guild Who you are tomorrow begins with what you are today. (Tim Fargo)	29 FPC@Friendship Place 6:30 PM Bible Study/ lounge	30 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	31 Wednesday youth schedule 4:15 p.m. Alleluia Ringers (grades 2-5) 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir (grades 6-12) 5:45 p.m. Middle/High School youth 7:00 p.m. J Praise bells (intergenerational)	