



The Good News

of First Presbyterian Church for March 2017

“...whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.”
(Mark 10.43b-44)

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. 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, March 1 and Easter, April 16 we invite you to join in these activities:

- ▶ *Ash Wednesday communion with imposition of ashes* March 1 at 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ *Morning worship on Sundays at 8:30 and 11 a.m.*
- ▶ *Bible study on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:45 p.m.* beginning March 8
- ▶ *Organ recital series Wednesdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m.* beginning March 8
- ▶ *Choir Cantata on March 26 at 8:30 and 11 a.m.*
- ▶ *Worship/Communion on Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m.*
- ▶ *Easter worship on April 16 at 8:30 and 11 a.m.*

Chancel Choir, orchestra lead Cantata Sunday March 26

This year’s Cantata Sunday will include two short cantatas: *Great is the Lord* by Andrew Carter and *Te Deum* by John Rutter.

Both cantatas, sung in English, will feature our Chancel and Youth Choir members, our church orchestra augmented with a few guest instrumentalists, members of our Jubilate Deo Handbell Choir, and soloists **Elizabeth Anne Woolner**, soprano, and **James Sessler**, bass. The orchestra will have full complement of strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, harp, and organ. Both cantatas center on praise of God for God’s goodness and sustenance in our lives. Jesus reminds us, “I am the vine and you are the branches.”

Participants are reminded that rehearsal on Saturday, March 25 is at 1 p.m. for orchestra and 2 p.m. for singers.

~ Lee J. Afdahl / Director of Music

Lee Afdahl and Friends present “organ and piano plus” program

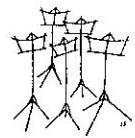
Time: Sunday, March 12 at 4 p.m.

Place: First Presbyterian Church sanctuary

A Festival of Music Concert Series was begun by Lee Afdahl when he became the Director of Music and Organist at First Presbyterian Church in 1991. Now in its 26th season, one of the series’ highlights is the annual “Lee and Friends” concert. This

year, Lee will be featured on piano, organ, and harpsichord and will be joined by **Christopher Boswell**, handbells; **Jeremy Braun**, percussion; **Classic Brass Quintet**; **Dwight Jennings**, recorder and alto saxophone; **Katie Kruger**, alto saxophone; **Karen Sessler**, recorder; **Tom Overlie**, baritone; and **Mary Schneekloth**, harp.

FESTIVAL
OF MUSIC



Lee J. Afdahl in
Organ-Piano Plus
Program
March 12, 2017

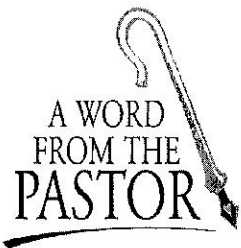
A graduate of Luther College, Lee has served as a church musician for more than forty years—leading active programs of choral and handbell ensembles in Michigan and Minnesota. He has conducted festival conferences for Handbell Musicians of America and several international handbell groups and led handbell classes for American Guild of Organists. He has served Handbell Musicians of America in various capacities, including president. Lee represented the organization as a conductor at the International Handbell Symposia in Liverpool, UK in 2012 and Jeju, South Korea in 2014.

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

~ Jane Hallman / A Festival of Music

A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows you your strengths; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disabilities but emphasizes your possibilities.

~ William Arthur Ward



by Rev. T. J. Parlette

March 2017

A few weeks ago during worship we looked at the passage from Deuteronomy in which Moses urged the nation of Israel to make the right choice and choose life and blessing over death and adversity.

It's a pretty stark speech that Moses gives, but one that presents us with a choice, perhaps more than ever in the times in which we live. For Moses, choosing life meant choosing to obey God's ways of love, compassion, justice, kindness and peace. When we talk about the biblical view of love, we are always talking about love as an action, not simply a warm fuzzy feeling in the pit of our stomach. Love as an action expressed in our relationships with each other, and with everyone else we meet in our communities and our nation.

In a time when so many of our leaders are warning of the evils that lurk around every corner, and behind the eyes of every stranger on every corner of every city in America, we as Christians, as children of God, once again have a choice to make. The same choice that Moses spoke of so long ago. Will we choose to follow God's way of life – or some other way as we bow down to fear and hate. Now is the time to choose light over darkness.

There was once a rabbi who was sitting with his students one evening, watching the stars appear in the heavens, one by one. "Tell me this," said the teacher. "How can we know when the night is ended and the day has begun?"

One eager young student jumped right in, "You know the night is over and the day has begun when you can look off across the pasture and tell which animal is a dog, and which is a sheep."

The teacher said nothing, he just gazed off into the distance.

"Is this the right answer?" asked the student.

"It is a good answer, but not the one I am looking for," said the teacher.

"Let me try," said another student. "You know the night is over and the day has begun when the light falls on the leaves, and you can tell if it is a palm tree or a fig tree."

"That too is a fine answer, but not the one I am looking for."

"Then what is the right answer? Please, Rabbi, answer your own question."

The wise old teacher looked out over the eager young faces and said, "When you can look into the eyes of another human being and see a brother or a sister, you know that it is morning. If you cannot see a sister or a brother, you know that it will always be night."

We have a choice to make. Obey God's commandments and follow God's way of love, compassion, justice and peace – or follow the ways of fear and hate. Now is the time to choose love. Now is the time to choose blessing. Now is the time to choose Life.

Peace, T. J.

Stewardship Alive!

Get helping - get happy!

Jesus said we'll be happy (or "blessed") when we're meek, merciful, pure and so on (Matthew 5:3-12). In other words, happiness results from putting others' needs above our own.

Research confirm that helping others boosts people's self-esteem, forges strong friendships, offers a sense of purpose, decreases stress, increases gratitude and sparks others to "pay it forward." In fact, researchers have found that the "activism cure" is a great way to overcome bouts of sadness. So get helping – and get happy! (NLNL)

Financial Statement / January 2017

General Operating Budget

Balance (1/1/17) (paid in 2016)	\$ 39,353.88
Receipts (January)	+ 99,541.88
Disbursements (January)	- 56,125.05
Balance (1/31/17)	\$ 82,770.71



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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	Rick L. Morris
Office Administrator	Susan K. Kruger
Facility Manager	Harry E. Coleman
Custodian	Vera B. Herr
Music Assistant	Kathleen M. Kruger
Part-time custodians/security	Steven Aug, Sally Evans, Tami Rinn, Margie Schaaf
Child Care Workers	Kelly Bock, Woo-Jung Ra, Margie Schaaf
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.

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.

Bdecan Mission Team plans for 2017 trip

The Bdecan Vacation Bible School Mission Team has begun planning for this summer's trip to the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota. We are once again coordinating our plans with **Joe Obermeyer**, the youth pastor at the Bdecan Presbyterian Church. The trip is planned for July 11 through the 16. This year's overall theme will be "God's Covenants," focusing on Noah, Moses and Jesus.

Church members planning on coming are **Cindy Kunzman, Jane Hallman, Heide Buettner, Ginger Kirby, Sara Kluck, Jean Abels, Susie McClocklin, Phyllis Schmid, Sylvia Swede** and **Marylynn Aalderks**.

~ *Marylynn Aalderks / Bdecan Mission Team*

Coming soon to your neighborhood: FPC!

Announcing a special church project you'll be hearing more about in the weeks ahead. It's called the *FPC Community Building Project* (for lack of a better name).

This project organizes church members into geographic zones or wards based on where they live. Knowing which church members live nearby creates opportunities for improved communication and connection. The goal of this project is to enhance the experience of community among FPC members who live near each other. Current deacons and elders who live in each ward will serve as the contact team of each ward.

The project is still in the planning stages. We're still gathering data and organizing members into wards. An important aspect of planning is to let you know this is in the works! In the coming weeks I'll be contacting our current deacons and elders to discuss details, support and ideas. By springtime, the plan is to have leader teams organized and empowered to begin initiating contact with church members.

In the meantime, your prayers and support for this project are appreciated as we work to enhance and improve the experience of community and support among our members.

Stay tuned! More to come!

~ *Rev. Jay Rowland / Associate Pastor*

Celebrate our Easter Garden with a donation of \$15. To contribute, put your check (note for Easter flowers) in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Following Easter services the Deacons will deliver the plants to our C.A.R.E. members.

See and hear what we're doing in Bangladesh

Mission co-workers **Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan** will be our guests at church on Sunday, March 26, and will give a presentation on their work between services in the social hall. Plan now to attend.

Since 1989 Les and Cindy have been the PCUSA's only mission co-workers in one of the world's most economically impoverished and most densely populated

countries, Bangladesh. They have served in hospitals, run village clinics, and have worked to control tuberculosis and leprosy. They advise and train workers for the Church of Bangladesh's health ministries and consult and train staff at the Church of Bangladesh's two hospitals and two nursing schools. They feel called to practice the ministry of compassion among the sick and to nurture this as a ministry of the body of Christ.

Both Les and Cindy earned their MD's at Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport and earned their M.P.H.'s in international health at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore.

See you in the social hall on the 26th!

~ *Sylvia Swede / Mission Committee*



Drs. Les and Cindy Morgan, PCUSA mission coworkers in Bangladesh since 1989

Connecting God's people with God's work in the world "COME AND SEE" (John 1:39) mission through the Outreach Foundation

The Outreach Foundation invites you to see what God is doing in the world through one of its ten global mission trips in 2017 (Cuba and Pakistan are already closed). The following are still available:

The Holy Land, May 15-27
Mozambique, June 5-15
South Sudan/Ethiopia, June 20 - July 1
Ghana, July 20-30
Colombia, August 20-26
Brazil, August 27 - September 3
Haiti, September 1-4
Egypt, October 23 - November 3
Iraq, November 5-15

Contact the Outreach Foundation for specific information about any trip you are interested in. (615-778-8881 or www.theoutreachfoundation.org)

~ *Jon Closson / Mission Committee*



Ministry of Music


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

"Music comes from an icicle as it melts,
to live again as spring water."
(William Arthur Ward)

FOM continues Lenten recital series

During the 2017 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!

- March 8 **Teresa Kramer**, organ student
University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD
- March 15 **Dr. Greg Peterson**, organist
Luther College, Decorah, Iowa
- March 22 **Sue Fortney Walby**, organist
First Presbyterian Church, LaCrosse, Wisconsin
- March 29 **Rev. David Tryggstad**, organist
Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Superior, Wisconsin
- April 5 **Rev. Matthew Lehman**, organist
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Prior Lake, Minnesota

 Singing and ringing schedule for March			
	8:30	11:00	Both
March 1	Ash Wednesday worship at 6:30 p.m. Singing: Chancel Choir; Ringing: Jubilate Deo		
March 5	Chancel Choir	Calvin Choir	Joyous Praise
March 12	Chancel Choir	Cherub Choir	Alleluia Rngs
March 19	Chancel Choir	Special music	Jubilate Deo
March 26	Choir Cantata <i>"Great Is the Lord"</i> by Andrew Carter <i>"Te Deum"</i> by John Rutter Chancel Choir, soloists, orchestra, handbells		

Branching Out: Connecting through Christ

Registration for Clearwater Forest camps is now open!

Come spend a week (Or two! Or three!) at Clearwater Forest this summer! The 2017 theme is "Branching Out: Connecting Through Christ." Campers will be exploring the many ways that a relationship with Christ can connect them with individuals and communities for the rest of their lives.

There are many one-week programs for campers entering 3rd grade all the way up to those who just graduated high school, as well as half-week programs for families.

Campfires, kayaking, high ropes, sailing, worship, hiking, archery, swimming, and s'mores are only part of what Clearwater Forest is all about. Living in community, learning independence and cooperation simultaneously, developing new friendships in a safe environment, experiencing outdoor ministry, and developing a deeper relationship with Christ makes a week at Clearwater Forest a truly life-changing experience.

Learn more and register online at www.ClearwaterForest.org!


Lenten Bible study focuses on life and message of the Apostle Paul

What would lead a first-century rabbi to travel for thousands of miles by sea and by land, to be beaten, imprisoned, and ultimately beheaded for his faith? It was a call – a call to turn the world upside down. This is the story of the Apostle Paul, whose writings have shaped the lives of one-third of the world's population, a man second only to Jesus in his influence on the Christian faith, and whose witness defines what it means to follow Jesus Christ.

This Lenten season, I encourage you to carve out some time on Wednesday nights to spend some time with Paul as we work through Adam Hamilton's study "The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul." We will visit many of the places Paul visited on his three missionary journeys – taking a look at places such as Damascus, Antioch, Perga, Corinth, Ephesus and Athens.

Come join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 -7:45 beginning on March 8 and concluding on April 12. You may sign up by calling the church office. The book is \$15.00.

~ Rev. T. J. Parlette / Pastor

 Adult Education	
<h3>Opportunities abound for adult study, discussion</h3> <p>Members have asked for in-depth studies and here are several great opportunities covering a wide variety of topics and interests!</p>	
Adult education ~ Sundays / 9:40-10:45 a.m.	
Bible Study (South Fireside) <i>Kerygma</i>	The Kerygma Class will continue their study of the Gospel of <i>Matthew</i> . The class is led by Jane Goodfriend and Ruth Walts .
Current Issues (Lounge)	<i>Current Events: the Pros and Cons</i> is the overall theme for the 2016-2017 year. The Current Issues discussion is led by Al Depman .
Parenting Support Group (Social Hall)	The Parent Support Group is moving to a monthly format! Join us at our table in the social hall between the services on Sunday, March 19. The discussion will be led by Ariel Boswell and Lucinda Clements .
Bible Study ~ Wednesdays / 6:30-7:45 p.m.	
Bible Study (Sheldon Jackson Lounge)	*** March 8 - April 12 A Lenten Study led by Rev. T. J. Parlette <i>The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul</i> by Adam Hamilton. Please sign up by calling the church office. The book is \$15.00.

from the FPC Parish Nursing program

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month



We don't like to think about the colon, but we all do... and some of us need to pay more attention than others! Even Jesus knew about the colon (Matthew 15:17).

Did you know that colon cancer is the 3rd most common non-skin cancer, or that it is expected to cause over 50,000 deaths in the US this year?

Age, family history, tobacco use, and diet all contribute to colon cancer, but it can strike at any age.

If you're over 50, it's time to get a colonoscopy, a Cologuard (a noninvasive test that looks for cancer DNA), or at the very least do a stool blood test. If you are noticing some changes or blood, no matter how old you are or when your last test was, you should talk to your doctor about a colonoscopy or other testing.

Don't wait until it's too late. "Don't say 'nope,' get a scope!"
~ Ariel Boswell / FPC Parish Nursing Advisory Council

Sitter Service plans for next parents' evening out March 10

Our next Sitter Service will be Friday, March 10 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sign up in the atrium after worship on March 5, in the church office by March 7, or by contacting **Gayle Jones** (mngjones@gmail.com 993-2443).

February was biggest month yet

Fourteen children attended Sitter Service on February 10 ... our biggest month yet. We had such a good night of games and fun. Thanks to all our volunteers: **Diane Grill, Mary Huie, Marylynn Aalderks, Phyllis Schmid, Jane Murl, Cindy Kunzman, Britta Youmans, Otis Laurberg, Sandy Holloway, Allyson Maurer, Gayle Jones, Dee Tiedeman** and **Melissa Walk**.

~ Gayle Jones / Sitter Service coordinator

The Lenten Sharing Calendar (on page six) highlights some of the challenging situations we address when extending care to God's people around the world. Each day suggests a donation of units. Choose an amount for these units that is most appropriate for your household. Collect the units and bring them to worship on Maundy Thursday or anytime before the end of May. If you aren't into "saving units," reading the highlights each day will help you realize how blessed and fortunate we are.



Channel One promotes Minnesota FoodShare

This year's Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign is here! Every March, the community comes together to collect food and funds to keep the shelves at the Channel One Supplemental Food Shelf stocked. This is the largest food and fund drive Channel One hosts each year. First Presbyterian Church has always been a big contributor to the success of the campaign.

Minnesota FoodShare traces beginnings to 1982

Minnesota FoodShare, a major program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC), began its work in 1982, with a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The effort was so successful, and the need was so evident, that it became a statewide program just one year later.

Today, the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together various Minnesota organizations, businesses, and places of worship to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. The March Campaign is the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, having raised \$7.9 million dollars and 5.2 million pounds of food in 2016, the most successful campaign in its 34 year history.


We envision a Minnesota where all residents have access to healthy food and no one suffers from hunger. The March Campaign addresses those issues directly, and we'd love to have you join the fight against hunger. By increasing awareness and advocating for long-term solutions to hunger in our communities, together we can meet the needs of those who need it most.

(from Minnesota FoodShare website)

Please join us as we partner with other caring people in the Rochester area to help alleviate hunger. Checks can be made out to the church, designating it for Channel One, and placed in the offering plate any Sunday in March or sent to the church office. Non-perishable food items can be placed in the Channel One barrel in the foyer. Because of the limitations set by an incentive fund and challenge, March 31 is the deadline for this year's donations.

GOD IS AT WORK IN EGYPT!

The Presbyterian Church in Egypt started 17 new churches last year! They have 95 other church plants throughout the country. There is also work being done to revitalize old churches in small towns and villages.

SUNDAY	MONDAY Children	TUESDAY Disaster Relief	WEDNESDAY Refugees	THURSDAY Poverty	FRIDAY Hunger	SATURDAY Education	
<p>LENTEEN SHARING CALENDAR</p> <p><i>The calendar suggests a donation of units each day. Choose an amount for these units that is most appropriate for your family.</i></p>			<p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p><i>Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also. (Matthew 6.21)</i></p>	<p>More than 1 in 4 U.S. children live in poverty. Give one unit in honor of each of your young children/grandchildren/nieces/nephews/friends.</p>	<p>Hunger kills more people every year than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined. Give one unit for each meal you ate out this week.</p>	<p>In South Asia, only 61% of students who enter school will reach fifth grade. Give one unit for every year of education you've had.</p>	
<p>March 5 First Week in Lent</p>	<p>More than 60,000 Syrian babies have been born in exile and have no place to call home. Give one unit in thanks for your home.</p>	<p>Your gifts to OGHHS make a difference in the lives of displaced, hungry, and hurting persons around the world. Give two units in support of them.</p>	<p>Conflict in South Sudan has forced more than 2 million people from their homes since 2013. Contribute one unit for every time your family has moved.</p>	<p>49 million Americans struggle to put food on the table; one in five children are at risk of hunger. Give one unit per variety of produce in your kitchen.</p>	<p>1 in 7 people will go to bed hungry tonight. Give two units if your family had enough to eat today.</p>	<p>In the least developed countries, only 45% of women can read and write. Give one unit for every book, magazine or paper you looked at today.</p>	
<p>March 12 Second Week in Lent</p>	<p>Since 2014, over 57,000 unaccompanied children have fled violence to the U.S. Give one unit for those who care for you each day.</p>	<p>Rains following long droughts in Kenya caused flooding and landslides. The dry land could not absorb the water. Contribute one unit if you remember playing with mud.</p>	<p><i>"We are one in the Spirit. We are one in the Lord. And we pray that unity may one day be restored. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love!"</i></p>	<p>One quarter of all humans live without electricity (approximately 1.6 billion people). Give one unit for every item you have plugged into an outlet in your room.</p>	<p>Hunger is the number one cause of death in the world. Consider skipping a meal today and praying for the hungry in our world. Then give three units to feed others.</p>	<p>Ethiopian teen Elma Kassa doesn't go to school. She fetches water so her mother can earn money by washing clothes. Give one unit for every year of education you have.</p>	
<p>March 19 Third Week in Lent</p>	<p>Acute malnutrition affects 34 million children worldwide and often overlaps with conflict and war. Give one unit for every nutritious meal you will eat today.</p>	<p>Overwhelmed by flooding in 2013, Illinois residents received several thousand CWS emergency cleanup buckets. Contribute one unit for each hour of cleaning you did this week.</p>	<p>Life as a refugee can be fearful, anxious, boring, scary, tough, desolate, crowded, confusing, hopeless. Give one unit in gratitude if you experience something of beauty today.</p>	<p>Many people in the world must carry all the water they use from a faraway river or well. Give one unit for each time you use water today: to drink, wash, cook, bathe, flush the toilet, etc.</p>	<p><i>"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me ..."</i></p>	<p>Church World Service helps make schools in Kenya safer through their "School Safe Zones" program. Give one unit for every safe school your family members attend.</p>	
<p>March 26 Fourth Week in Lent</p>	<p>With the help of foreign assistance, deaths of children under age 5 have dropped from 12.6 to 6.6 million since 1990. Give two units to make that number even smaller.</p>	<p>It is estimated that over 1.5 million persons have been internally displaced in Nigeria, many because of religious persecution. Give two units if you are free to attend church without fear.</p>	<p>Church World Service helps provide shelter for thousands of displaced persons at a refugee camp in Tanzania. Give one unit for every time you've been to camp.</p>	<p>Nearly half the world's population (3 billion) live on less than \$2 per day, and over 1.3 billion on less than \$1.25 per day. Give two units if you will spend more than \$2 today.</p>	<p>In Himachal Pradesh, India, women and girls walk an average of 2.7 hours to collect firewood for cooking and heating. Give one unit for the number of steps from your kitchen to your thermostat.</p>	<p>Girls are often excluded from education systems, yet educated girls are key to reaching many developmental goals. Give two units in honor of significant women in your life.</p>	
<p>April 2 Fifth Week in Lent</p>	<p>66 million primary-school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone. Give one unit for each meal and snack you ate today.</p>	<p>Over 2200 Haitian boss masons have been trained in earthquake-resistant building practices. Give one unit to continue the long term recovery after Haiti's devastating 2010 earthquake.</p>	<p>About 45% of the world's refugees reside in countries with per capita incomes below \$3,000—countries least able to afford them. Please help! Contribute one unit.</p>	<p>More than 1 billion children live in poverty around the world, and 22,000 children die every day because of it. Give one unit for every regular paycheck that your household collects.</p>	<p>Hunger causes cognitive and physical stunting, and a variety of other health problems. It constrains economic growth and perpetuates poverty. Donate food to a local shelter.</p>	<p>Millions of youth are illiterate in the world's poorest countries, yet education is critical to developing better job skills, health and future. Thank your teacher(s) for their help.</p>	
<p>April 9 Palm Sunday Holy Week</p>	<p>1 in 4 children worldwide are stunted by chronic malnutrition – their shortness a visible sign of the damage to brain development and overall health. Give one unit for each child you hold dear.</p>	<p>Tarpaulins, provided by OGHHS dollars, were sent to earthquake victims in India. Put one unit in your bank for every tent your family owns, and one unit for each sleeping bag.</p>	<p><i>"In Christ there is not east or west; in him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth."</i></p> <p>Send your love with five units.</p>	<p>With his disciples during the Last Supper, Jesus prayed for oneness, connection, and unity (John 17.20-23). Perhaps he knew that understanding our oneness would be one of our greatest challenges as human beings. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we connect visibly, effectively, efficiently, and powerfully as one to answer needs in God's family.</p> <p>The offering will be taken during Maundy Thursday worship April 13 or bring your donation to worship any Sunday in March or April.</p>			



News from Presbyterian Women

✳ *Sylvia Swede, facilitator*

Circles always welcome visitors and new members! Join us for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. The 2016-2017 Bible study is *Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes.*

Esther Circle: Monday, March 20 at 1 p.m. at the church. Hostesses: **Susie McClocklin** and **Kiyomi Takekawa**. Program: **Sylvia Swede**. Devotions: **Kiyomi Takekawa**.

Priscilla Circle: Wednesday, March 15 at 9:15 a.m. in the lounge. Hostesses: **Marylynn Aalderks** and **Becky Will**. Program: **Heide Buettner** (Bible Study). Devotions: **Heide Buettner**. Project: Donation to Channel One for Minnesota Foodshare.

Ruth Circle: Saturday, March 18 at 10 a.m. in the lounge. Hostess: **Jean Abels**. Devotions: **Pat Talen**. Program: **Phyllis Schmid** (Bible Study lesson #7 on "Who Is Jesus?").

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Join us Thursday, March 9 at 1 p.m. in the lounge for an afternoon of 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.

World Day of Prayer convenes March 4 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Mark March 4 on your calendar! World Day of Prayer, an ecumenical celebration, will be held March 4 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (559 20th Street SW). There will be coffee, treats, and fellowship at 10 a.m. with the worship service to follow at 10:30. The worship service was written by the women of the Philippines.

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical celebration carried out by women in more than 170 countries on or near the first Friday in March. It brings together women of many races, cultures, and traditions in closer fellowship and understanding.

Presbyterian Women convene Spring Gathering April 22 in Stillwater

The Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women of the Twin Cities Area will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, on April 22. PW will pay the registration, which includes lunch, for any women who wish to attend. Details about the program will come later. Mark your calendar!

SAVE THE DATE: Please mark your calendars now for our annual **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**. The tradition here at FPC is to offer VBS the first full week of summer break every June, which this year will be June 12-16. Save these dates!

Church Family News

Anniversaries

Congratulations to **David and Elaine Jones** who will celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary March 7.

Congratulations to **Clifford and Patricia Gastineau** who will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary March 16.

Birth

Congratulations to **Susanna Stone** and **Jacob Wright** on the birth of their son, **Edward "Teddy" Warren Stone-Wright**, February 9.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to **Shirley Gove** who will celebrate her 96th birthday March 1.

Happy Birthday to **Val Battenburg** who will celebrate her 101st birthday March 17.

Happy Birthday to **Ruby Rose** who will celebrate her 95th birthday March 17.

Happy Birthday to **Dan Moore**, who will celebrate his 91st birthday March 21.

Crafters Group welcomes young and old!



The Crafters Group will meet on Wednesday, March 15 in the social hall at 3 p.m. Come join us for fellowship and fun as we make cards for our C.A.R.E. members. All supplies are provided.

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

Sunday worship schedule

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.

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 and High School youth
(Will attend Ash Wednesday worship March 1)

7:00 p.m. Joyous Praise bells (intergenerational)
(Will rehearse at 7:30 p.m. March 1)



For God
 so loved the world that he gave his
 one and only son,
 that whoever believes
 in him shall not perish
 but have *eternal life*.
John 3:16

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March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>See page 7 for schedule of Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon/evening activities.</p>			<p>1 Ash Wednesday Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual 1:00 PM Charter House worship and communion 6:30 PM Chancel Choir sings 6:30 PM Worship w/communion, imposition of ashes</p>	<p>2 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 10:00 AM World Day of Prayer/Good Shepherd Lutheran</p>
<p>5 Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Communion Joyous Praise rings (both) 8:30 AM Chancel/Yth Chr sings 9:30 AM Blood Pressure/Parish Nursing 11:00 AM Calvin Choir sings</p>	<p>6 FPC@Community Food Response</p>	<p>7 Most committees meet/ check w/lead elder 9:30 AM Staff meeting 11:00 AM Grief Support Grp 7:00 PM Deacons/south fireside</p>	<p>8 Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual FPC@Friendship Place 12:15 PM Lenten recital/T Kramer 1:00 PM Kitchen Guild 6:30 PM Bible Study w/TJ Parlette</p>	<p>9 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 5:30 PM Sitter Service (5:30-9:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>11 9:00 AM Presbytery/Oak Grove - Bloomington</p> <p><u>Set clocks ahead 1 hour t...</u></p>
<p>12 Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Alleluia Rngrs rings (both) 8:30 AM Chancel/Yth Chr sings 11:00 AM Cherub Choir sings 4:00 PM FOM/Afdahl and Friends</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 9:30 AM Staff meeting</p>	<p>15 Newsletter items due Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual FPC@Friendship Place 9:15 AM Priscilla Circle/lounge 12:15 PM Lenten recital/G Peterson 3:00 PM Crafters Group/SHall 6:30 PM Bible Study w/TJ Parlette</p>	<p>16 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 10:00 AM Ruth Circle/ lounge</p>
<p>19 Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Jubilate Deo (both) 8:30 AM Chancel/Yth Chr sings</p>	<p>20 1:00 PM Esther Circle/ lounge</p>	<p>21 9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Session/Fireside Rm 7:15 PM FOM Cmte/north fireside</p>	<p>22 Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual FPC@Friendship Place 12:15 PM Lenten recital/S Walby 6:30 PM Bible Study w/TJ Parlette</p>	<p>23 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>Pearls don't lie on the seashore. If you want one, you must dive for it. (Chinese Proverb)</p>						
<p>26 Choir Cantata Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Chancel/Youth Choir sings (both) Orchestra (both) 9:45 AM SSL-C Morgan on Bangladesh</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Mail quarterly statements 9:30 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Chancel Guild</p>	<p>29 Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual FPC@Friendship Place 12:15 PM Lenten recital/D Tryggestad 6:30 PM Bible Study w/TJ Parlette</p>	<p>30 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>31</p>	<p><u>No school/Spring Brea...</u></p>