



# The Good News

## of First Presbyterian Church for August 2016

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Praise the Lord.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

(Psalm 106.1 [NM])

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### Come take a hike!

**Mark Mueller** is partnering with the parish nursing ministry again this year to lead exciting group walks. The walks began in July and will continue on the fourth Sunday of August through October.

The walks begin at 1 p.m. and are family friendly but geared towards physically active participants. Don't forget to bring a hat and water and wear sunscreen! If the activity needs to be cancelled, we will leave a message on the church's answering machine.

This is a fun way to get outdoors, learn some local history, and spend time with other church members. If you have questions, contact Mark at [markmueller@chartermi.net](mailto:markmueller@chartermi.net).

#### **August 28 / 1 p.m. - Trail Walk to Cascade Lakes**

Meet at the soccer field parking lot behind Shorewood Senior Campus (2115 2nd Street SW) at 1 p.m. We will check out part of the Cascade Lakes trail system and see the future swimming beach.

#### **September 25 / 1 p.m. - Hike along the Creek**

Meet at Quarry Hill Nature Center (701 Silver Creek Road NE) at 1 p.m. We will hike along the creek and explore some of Quarry Hill Park.

#### **October 23 / 1 p.m. - Park Hike at Root River**

Meet at Root River Park (4012 80th Street SE) at 1 p.m. We will check out the old stagecoach bridge and the 90-foot tall limestone bluffs.

~ Mark Mueller and Ariel Boswell

### **August services of worship**

August 3: NO worship and communion  
at Charter House in August

August 7: Worship and communion at 9:30 a.m.

August 14, 21, and 28: Worship at 9:30 a.m.

September 4: Worship and communion at 9:30 a.m.

Coffee and donuts will be available in the atrium  
both before (beginning at 8:45) and after the service.

September 11: Kickoff Sunday

We return to services at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

### Celebrate summer at Celebration of Life dinner

A wonderful tradition continues on August 21 at 5:30 p.m. as we celebrate the lives that have mattered in our lives.

Fourteen years ago, **Sherry Meyer** requested a Celebration of her life while she was still here to enjoy her friends and family. The **Lowell Meyer family** has continued this tradition at FPC every year since. The Meyers provide a fried chicken dinner, with fresh corn-on-the-cob, potatoes and salad. We are asked to bring a pie to share.....singles are encouraged to coordinate with another single and bring one pie.

Reservations are needed and can be made by signing up in the atrium after church on August 7 and 14 or by calling the church office by August 17.

This has become a wonderful ending to our summer each year. Come join our Celebration of Life at 5:30 p.m. on the 21st of August.

~ Gayle Jones / Welcoming and Nurturing Committee

*Who is Jesus? What a difference a lens makes!*

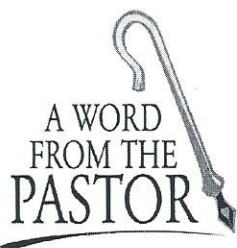
### **Are you interested in finding out more about Jesus?**

The Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church invite you to join them for an introductory session on the Horizons Bible Study for 2016-2017, "Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes." The **Rev. Susan Li** will lead us in this opportunity on Saturday, September 17 at 10 a.m. at FPC in the social hall. We hope you can join us! If you have any questions please call the FPC office (282-1618), or email **Mary Huie** ([mshuie25@hotmail.com](mailto:mshuie25@hotmail.com)).

### **Charter House worship and communion cancelled for August**

Because of vacations, we have cancelled the worship and communion service at Charter House in August. Plan to join us on September 7.





by Rev. T. J. Parlette

August 2016

As our headlines have been dominated by increasing violence and racism, there is good news for Presbyterians this summer! There were many hope-filled moments at the recent General Assembly meeting in Portland, Oregon that I think provide a model for how we as a society can move forward.

For instance, **J. Herbert Nelson** was elected as our new Stated Clerk, becoming the first African-American to serve in that office.

We also elected Co-Moderators for the first time in our church's history. **Denise Anderson**, a young African-American woman, and **Jan Edmiston**, a slightly older white woman, will share the responsibilities of being Moderator for the next two years.

And finally, the PCUSA voted to add The Confession of Belhar to our Book of Confessions. This is a big deal – we haven't added anything to our Book of Confessions since 1990! With its focus on unity, reconciliation and justice, a letter from the PCUSA that accompanies the study guide on the Confession notes, "We believe that the Confession of Belhar is a profound statement that comes to us as a word from God for this particular time and place for the PCUSA."

### Bishop Jackson urges church to be "prophetic, not pathetic"

In a sermon to the Assembly, AME Bishop Reginald Jackson urged the Presbyterian Church to be "prophetic, not pathetic." He said, "In our nation today we have clergy and churches in the name of the same God giving two different messages on the same subject – gun control, immigration and Christian/Muslim relations. All around the country there is a crisis of conflicting voices. Our nation today is polarized and divided."

Jackson offered three suggestions for resolving this crisis of conflicting voices.

- **First, "Each of us must remain faithful.** Too many of us in the faith community have stopped doing the things to remain faithful in the first place. It is not enough to know we've been called. What's more important is to know who called you."
- **Second, don't be fooled by the numbers.** "Too many of us get alarmed by the numbers – how many are on our side, how many on the other side, who's leaving and who's staying. We capitulate; we go along to get along. The Lord has not called us to be popular; the Lord called us to be faithful."
- **Thirdly, live like you know God.** "We are alarmed and rattled by a whole bunch of stuff. I go to bed with the assurance that God still has the last word in this world. In the end, what God has said is going to happen. So let's be faithful. Let's speak truth to power. Let's stand on God's word and what God says to us. Let us live with the confidence that God still has the last word in this world. Let us be prophetic, not pathetic."

It is a good time to be a Presbyterian. At the national level, the PCUSA is modeling the kinds of things that our nation must do in order to deal with hate and racism – things like listening to voices previously silenced, giving power to those who have been powerless and following those who have historically been pushed out of the way. That is something to be proud of.

### The role of First Presbyterian Church

On a more local level, Jay, Rick and I recently attended a Faith Forum at Bethel Lutheran Church with several prominent African-American leaders in town along with Sheriff Kevin Torgerson. In that Forum, many issues were discussed, but it all boiled down to one thing. It's easy to hate a large, faceless group categorized as "Them" – whether it's all black people, all police officers or all Muslims. But when we get to know individuals, it's much harder to hate. It's easy to hate "them," it's harder to hate someone you know. That's where racism needs to be addressed. In addition to better training for law enforcement and more community listening events to ease the tension and increase understanding, we all can make an effort to get to know individuals.

Of course, it can't end there. There's always something more to do. So I invite you to consider how we at First Presbyterian Church, in the city of Rochester, in the state of Minnesota, can be prophetic, and not pathetic.

Peace,

T. J.



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The Good News is published the first of each month for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church (FPC).

The newsletter tells the story of the church, promotes its programs, and publicizes opportunities to live out one's faith.

#### Church Staff

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

Sunday services of worship: 9:30 a.m. through Labor Day Sunday  
Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;  
Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday, office closed  
Visit our WEB site at [www.FPCRochester.org](http://www.FPCRochester.org).

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



## Troubled Hearts: Anxiety Awareness

Our world is full of changes and uncertainties. It is easy to become distracted or even consumed by fear about terrorism, money, our kids, the future... The list could go on and on!



On the health side, anxiety can lead our body to release stress hormones and contribute to high blood pressure, panic attacks, sleep problems, social isolation, substance abuse, and depression. In John 14:1 Jesus reminds us "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me." Taking the time to remind ourselves that he is in control can help us reduce our anxiety.

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV) also encourages us to "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." In addition to giving our worries to God, exercising, socializing, and keeping a journal are a few ways to break out of the anxiety cycle. Pursuing counseling and cognitive behavioral therapy can help reframe and cope with stressors.

Finally, consider talking to your healthcare provider as there are several different medications that can address anxiety. Please email [fpcparishnursing@gmail.com](mailto:fpcparishnursing@gmail.com) if you have questions for the parish nurses about community resources for anxiety.

~ Ariel B. Boswell, R.N. / Parish Nursing coordinator

**Reminder:** *One of our parish nurses will be in our library the first Sunday of each month (after worship in the summer and between services the rest of the year) to take your blood pressure and answer questions you might have about your health.*

## Nominating Committee needs names for new officers for next year

Your FPC Nominating Committee will soon begin to look for candidates to serve the congregation beginning January 2017. Specifically, there are positions available for six Elders to be on the Session, seven Deacons, and an at-large candidate for the Endowment Committee. These are all three-year terms, 2017 - 2019. In addition, there are five openings for next year's Nominating Committee, a one-year commitment.

If you are interested in finding out more about what these positions entail, please contact a member of the current Nominating Committee. If there is someone you'd like to nominate for a position, we will be glad to contact them as part of our outreach. Thank you for helping FPC grow in wisdom and faith!

Members of this year's Nominating Committee are **Gayle Jones**, lead elder; **Jane Murl** and **Karen Sessler**, elders; **Neil Shepard**, Deacon representative; and **Jeremy Braun**, **Ron Kreinbring**, **Cindy Kunzman**, **Wendy Shannon**, and **Laura Smith**, congregation-at-large members.

## Stewardship Alive!

### Capital Campaign reaches 89% of goal

As of July 19 we've received 120 pledges and unpledged income for \$285,182 toward our goal of \$320,000. Work on the last of the projects, the kitchen, is winding down and should be completed by the end of July. You'll be amazed at the transformation! Considering all the areas of our building that have been impacted, the goal of \$320,000 is a small price for the benefits we've received.

Please do your part to help finish covering the \$320,000 by returning your pledge card today. And thank you to the people who have already responded. You're a treasure and we appreciate you very much!

### Financial Statement / June 2016

#### General Operating Budget

Balance (5/31/16)	\$ 62,834.50
Receipts (June)	+ 61,067.49
Disbursements (June)	- 49,067.59
Balance (6/30/16)	\$ 74,834.40

## Sign up on the internet to be a liturgist

Friends in Christ,

Have you ever considered serving as a liturgist for one of our church services? It is an easy and fun way of participating in our weekly church services. The Worship and Music Committee has now added an on-line sign-up function using the application SignUpGenius. Here is how it works...

- In your web browser, enter the address [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com).
- At the top of the page, locate the yellow button that says "Find a Sign Up" and click it.
- From here you have two options, you can search by Email using my email address [duffer45@gmail.com](mailto:duffer45@gmail.com) or if you are already a member, you can log on to the website using the same credentials you use for other SignUpGenius activities.
- If you use the search by Email function, you will get both the 2016 and the 2017 liturgist sign-up lists. Simply open one and follow the instructions to sign up. You can also use these instructions to change your sign up if necessary.
- Of course, if you would rather, you can avoid all the technical on-line stuff by simply calling or e-mailing me directly (Paul Steger) at 507-259-5137 or [duffer45@gmail.com](mailto:duffer45@gmail.com) and I would be happy to help you get signed up.

So, if you have ever considered serving as a liturgist, I hope you take the time to either sign up on-line or contact me, **Paul Steger**, so we can keep this important part of our weekly church services staffed. Thank you.

*Paul Steger, chair / Worship and Music Committee*





## Ministry of Music

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

Music expresses that which cannot be said  
 and on which it is impossible to be silent.  
*(Victor Hugo)*

### Handbell Choirs open to new members

We have a few openings in each of the youth handbell choirs this fall. If you have contemplated joining one of our choirs, know that this is the time, and you are most welcome to join us.

Adult rehearsals begin September 8

Thursdays from 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Children and youth rehearsals begin September 14

Wednesdays, late afternoon and early evening

Please contact me if you are willing to join us.

afdahl.lee@fpcrochester.org or 282-1618

### Vocal Choirs welcome members (always)

We always could use more singers in all age levels of singing:

Cherubs (age 4-grade one)

Calvin Choir (grades 2-5)

Youth Choir (grades 6-12)

Adults (no age limit!)

A complete schedule will be in the September newsletter.

### August 14 last chance for volunteer summer choir

We encourage youth and adults alike to join us for the  
 SECOND SUNDAY WALK-IN Choir August 14.

We meet at 9 a.m. to review or learn an easy anthem for  
 9:30 a.m. worship that day. Please join us and bring friends or  
 family members who do not usually sing with us. Copies of the  
 music are available in the robe room if you want to review the  
 music ahead of time.

This is the final chance for this year's summer choir. The  
 Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals September 8.

### Recital series features Lee Afdahl

Lee Afdahl will be the featured organist in the Summer Organ  
 Recital Series at Christ United Methodist Church on August 2  
 from 12:15-12:45 p.m.

### A small laugh

"God warned a man named Lot to take his wife and flee  
 out of the city," said the Sunday school teacher, "but Lot's  
 wife looked back and was turned to salt."

A curious boy then asked, "What happened to the flea?"

## A Festival of Music announces 2016-2017 program series

FESTIVAL  
OF MUSIC



A Festival of Music will launch its 26th year  
 in October and will present performances  
 by artists in a wide variety of musical  
 expressions.

October 16, 2016

Adam Brakel, concert organist  
 Tampa, Florida

November 13, 2016

Twin Cities Bronze, handbell ensemble  
 Amy Maakestad, conductor  
 Twin Cities, Minnesota

February 12, 2017

Du Huang and Xiao Hu, unison piano duo  
 Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

March 12, 2017

Lee J. Afdahl and Friends  
 Annual program of music for organ/piano  
 and other instruments

April 2, 2017

Brass Roots Trio (French horn, trumpet, piano)  
 Flemington, New Jersey

The 2017 Lenten organ recital series (Wednesdays during  
 Lent at 12:15 p.m. beginning March 8) will feature **Teresa  
 Kramer** (student, University of South Dakota), **Dr. Gregory  
 Peterson** (college organist, Luther College / Decorah, Iowa),  
**Sue Fortney Walby** (First Presbyterian Church / LaCrosse,  
 Wisconsin), **Rev. David Tryggstad** (Duluth, Minnesota), and  
**Matthew Lehman** (Holy Cross Lutheran / Prior Lake,  
 Minnesota).

Watch for the concert series flyer in September to learn  
 more about next season's programs.

~ Lee Afdahl / Director of Music

### How do you reach us?

E-mail (and texting) has become a fact of life and in some  
 cases the primary way we communicate. But unlike our \*one\*  
 home on which we pay real estate taxes, many people have  
 several e-mail "homes" and the church staff is no exception.

In addition to other e-mail addresses we may use, we  
 promise we will check these regularly.

T. J. Parlette

parlette.tj@fpcrochester.org

Jay Rowland

rowland.jay@fpcrochester.org

Lee Afdahl

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Katie Kruger

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Sue Kruger

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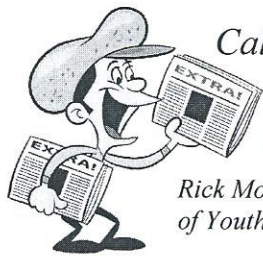
Harry Coleman

coleman.harry@fpcrochester.org

Carol Evans

fpc\_carol@hotmail.com





Calling all youth!

## Rick's Report

Rick Morris, Coordinator  
of Youth and Christian Education

It is a challenging time to be a kid. One of the most important things for youth is to have a strong community of friends and adults that they know care unwaveringly for them. In youth group we spend time together doing fun and silly things because, well, they're fun and silly! But also because they lay the foundation for relationships that youth can rely on when times are tough or confusing.

### August activities range from movies to tubing

You are invited to join in fun special events in August (details below), and to join in the wonderful ministry of Sunday school and youth group when the curriculum year begins again in September.

**Monday, August 1.** Let's go to the movies! Let's aim for a 7 p.m. showing at the Paragon Chateau (3450 East Circle Drive NE). They haven't released showtimes for August yet, but I think that we will either go with *The Big Friendly Giant* or *The Secret Life of Pets*. Please **RSVP** so we know to expect you and can coordinate as the show times are updated. Ticket cost is \$5.50 for a child and \$9.50 for an adult.

We have reserved **Friday, August 12** for **TUBING** with the Zumbro River Ratz in Millville, Minnesota. We will meet at church at 12 p.m., caravan to Millville, and be on the water around 1 p.m., returning around 5 p.m. PLEASE RSVP if you are interested or can help chaperone. We will need multiple drivers. Cost is \$15/person.

Contact Rick Morris ([morris.rick@fpcrochester.org](mailto:morris.rick@fpcrochester.org)) to RSVP or for more details!

### Bible Study ~ Wednesdays / 6:30-7:30 p.m. Sheldon Jackson Lounge

The Wednesday Bible Study will continue through the summer on an every other week schedule. The studies aren't dependent on having attended a previous class, so you are welcome to come whenever you can. The class is led by Al Depman.

August 10 and 24

**PLEASE:** If you're going to be anywhere in the church building after hours, remember to sign in on the white board when you enter the building and then erase your name when you leave. That will save the church from paying \$54.25 for a security call when someone is locked in the building with the alarm set! Thanks!

## Habitat for Humanity team continues work in August

FPC's Habitat for Humanity team will work Saturday, August 20 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (or whatever hours you're available). There are jobs for every skill level. No construction experience is necessary.

Contact **Sarah Edgerton** ([EdgertonSarah@gmail.com](mailto:EdgertonSarah@gmail.com) or 536-9637) for the location.

We'll work the third Saturday of each month through September. Join us when you can!

~ Thanks, Sarah Edgerton / FPC Habitat coordinator

### Members of Session for 2016

Pastor: Rev. T. J. Parlette  
Associate Pastor: Rev. Jay Rowland  
Clerk to Session: Cindy Kunzman

2016	2017	2018
Ken Alderks	Chris Bauch	Ken Boyer
Jay Beck	Casey Clements	Fabian Luna
Eileen Hay	Jacqueline Moen	Mark Mueller
Gayle Jones	Jane Murl	Sharon Nichols
Dan Wentz	Gabriel Perkins	Karen Sessler
Vacancy	Paul Steger	Jay Youmans

### Members of Board of Deacons for 2016

Staff Liaison: Rev. Jay Rowland  
Co-chairs: Rachel Beukema and Leslie Litwiller

2015	2016	2018
Marylynn Alderks	Jamie Carroll	Debra Bauch
Rachel Beukema	Amy Dollerschell	Brett Carroll
Judy Felten	Leslie Litwiller	June Lee
Jane Hallman	Robert Litwiller	David Lewis
Heather Harrer	Yvonne Nkwelle-Mesumbe	Rosella Lund
Vicky Pileggi	Bev Salomonsen	Bev Olander
Neil Shepard	Beverly Tuohy	Lucy Schmidt





## Your generosity brings hope and help to those in need

*"When was it that we saw you a stranger...?"*  
(Matthew 25.38)

Many causes have come across our desks and our hearts this year. We thank you for your generous responses to all of them.

### February: CWS Blankets

In February our congregation gave \$5,071 and joined over 4000 churches across the nation in Church World Service's **Blankets+** program. Besides blankets, Blankets+ provides emergency supplies such as tents, mosquito nets, food, bottled water and health kits to places in the world where disaster has struck.

### March: Minnesota Foodshare/Channel One

Each March we partner with other caring people in the Rochester area to help alleviate hunger. Through **Minnesota Foodshare** we joined with food shelves across Minnesota to collect donations of money and food that support local efforts to help feed people in need and reduce hunger in our community. This year First Presbyterian members contributed \$11,212 in cash plus additional donations to the food barrel.

### March/April: One Great Hour of Sharing

The Mission Committee extends thanks to the congregation for their wonderful response to the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering collected in March and April. FPC collected \$8,229 for this special offering that helps support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

### June/July: Bdecan Backpack project

The **Bdecan Backpack project** is a special program this year. We collected children's backpacks and underwear, socks, T-shirts, pants or shorts, wash cloths, soap, combs and shampoo so the social worker on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation can provide clothing and personal items for children when they are unexpectedly removed from their home and put in foster care. You responded generously and in addition we received \$1890 that was used to purchase extra t-shirts, 60 (!) pajamas, diapers, and other supplies for the backpacks.

### May: Pentecost Offering

Each year on **Pentecost Sunday**, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life. Gifts to the Pentecost Offering help bring God's transforming, redeeming love to children at risk, guide and nurture young people's growing faith, and provide opportunities for young adults to become spiritual leaders – all in the name of Jesus Christ. This year FPC members contributed \$3,141.

*In all these special causes, your dollars really do make a difference and we thank you for your generosity.*

## Thanks received for PW donations

Last month we listed organizations Presbyterian Women helped support with receipts from their rummage sale in April. Here are the responses we received from some of those recipients.

### Channel One

We are so honored and pleased to receive your recent contribution to Channel One Regional Food Bank. You are truly helping feed people through your generous support.

### Hawthorne Helps

Your most generous gift was an amazing surprise, arriving just as our needs at Hawthorne Education Center will be increasing. District 535 approved a construction project to be completed by September 2016 that will add four additional classrooms. Immigrant women will benefit directly as one classroom is for expanding childcare on site. The other 3 classrooms will be used for training Certified Nursing Assistants who will then have an opportunity for employment that pays a living wage and provides insurance. ... This gift was truly a blessing.

### IMA World Health

Thank you for your donation to IMA World Health. Because of your gift, expectant mothers and their babies will have a greater chance for safer, healthier births. The Safe Motherhood Kits they will receive will provide them with essential birthing supplies that help fight maternal infection, and items to keep their newborn babies safe and warm. A healthy beginning is truly a priceless gift for a woman and her baby! Thank you again for partnering with IMA to make a difference for mothers and their babies around the world!

### Civic League Day Nursery

On behalf of Civic League Day Nursery, I wish to thank Presbyterian Women for their generous contribution. Your donation will be used to help pay the tuition for a three-year-old girl at our child care center. This family is extremely grateful this donation is available at the time of their financial need.

### Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Your generous July gift to support emergency and disaster relief efforts is a gift that clothes those who are naked with shelter, support, harmony, and peace. For those gifts, we know they are thankful ... and so are we. May the peace of Christ continue to rule in your heart, and may God's love clothe you and yours with joy.



## 2016-2017 calendar in progress, needs your input

We're working on the all-church calendar for the coming program year (September 2016-September 2017). If you or your committee have activities you want included, please contact **Carol Evans** as soon as possible (282-1618 or [fpc\\_carol@hotmail.com](mailto:fpc_carol@hotmail.com)).

We expect to have the calendar ready by the first Sunday in September. Thanks for your help!





## News from Presbyterian Women

\* Sylvia Swede, facilitator

### Medical Missions Coffee raises \$4400

In June we raised \$4400 for Medical Missions, part of the national Thank Offering. Thanks to all who contributed. Thanks to **Terry Narr** for hosting the June 29 Medical Missions Coffee and to **Jean Marvin** for organizing the event. **Marylynn Aalderks** gave an excellent presentation on the work of Small Change 4 Big Change in Guatemala.

*Save this date! Saturday, October 15, is the Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women of the Twin Cities Area Presbytery at Calvin Presbyterian Church, Long Lake.*

### Presbyterian Women of the Synod gather in Sioux Falls

Two hundred women from MN, IA, WI, NE, ND, and SD attended the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Sioux Falls, SD June 15-18. **Zoe Abrahamson, Heide Buettner, Char Ellefson, LaDonna Fay, Jane Hallman, Peg Parsons, and Sylvia Swede** represented FPC. It was a time of fellowship, worship, and study.

The morning and evening plenaries were based on the theme "Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace" from the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. Eighteen workshops were offered. **Rev. Robert Keefer** of the Church of the Master Presbyterian Church in Omaha spoke about "What God Taught Me Through Studying Evolution" and **Danielle McKinney**, the first Dakota woman ordained in the PCUSA, talked about Native American spirituality. **Susan Dowd**, PW Executive Director, told of the tremendous work PWs do through their Birthday Offering, the Thank Offering, Together in Service work, and Justice and Peace advocacy. **Rahab's Rope**, one of the recipients of a Thank Offering grant, is a Christian ministry that provides protection and education for children and women who have been trafficked in Mumbai, Bangalore, and Goa, India. Their goal is that every woman become completely self-sufficient.

Everyone is very excited about the 2016-17 Bible study, "Who is Jesus?" **Stephanie Anthony**, pastor of First Presbyterian in Hudson, WI, presented an overview of the study. We will learn about various views of Jesus from the four Gospel writers, Paul, Hebrews, non-canonical sayings, Judaism, and Islam.

Each attendee was asked to bring a \$10 gift card from Target or Hy-Vee. The cards, totaling \$2305, went to the Center of Hope in Sioux Falls, a gospel outreach ministry for people who struggle with difficult life issues. The Friday night offering of \$3964 was divided between ECPAT-USA (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking), an international network that focuses on combating trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children, and the Sweetgrass Program, which provides community awareness, support, resources, and skills for tribal youth suicide prevention on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

## Church Family News

### Anniversaries

Congratulations to **Dudley and Peg Parsons** who celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary July 24.

Congratulations to these couples who will celebrate fiftieth (+) wedding anniversaries in August:

8/3: **Charles and Carol Smyrk** (65)

**Tony and Judy Smithson** (53)

8/7: **James and Judy Seward** (51)

8/12: **Frank and Lynda Sharbrough** (55)

8/15: **John and Linda Tillotson** (51)

8/18: **Allen and Marcia Dollerschell** (54)

8/19: **Bruce and Mary Ellen Brown** (60)

**Neil and Marilyn McKay** (60)

8/25: **Ronald and Nancy MacKenzie** (54)

8/27: **Warren and Mary Potter** (66)

**John and Ann Mitchell** (56)

8/29: **H. Bryan and Ingrid Neel** (52)

### Birth

Congratulations **Barry and Lori Folkens, Lincoln, Kinley, and Kennedy** on the birth of their daughter and sister, **Kambrie Grace Folkens**, July 1.

### Birthday

Happy Birthday to **Pat Whisnant** who will celebrate her 92nd birthday August 20.

Happy Birthday to **Omer Burgert** who will celebrate his 92nd birthday August 22.

### Deaths

We extend our condolences to **Ruth Walts and Adrienne Walts** on the death of Ruth's husband and Adrienne's father, **James Orrin Walts**, June 22.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of **Elizabeth (Betty) Chapman**, who died July 7. A memorial service will be Saturday, August 20, at 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian.

## Calling all crafters!

*Crafters will meet the second week in August*



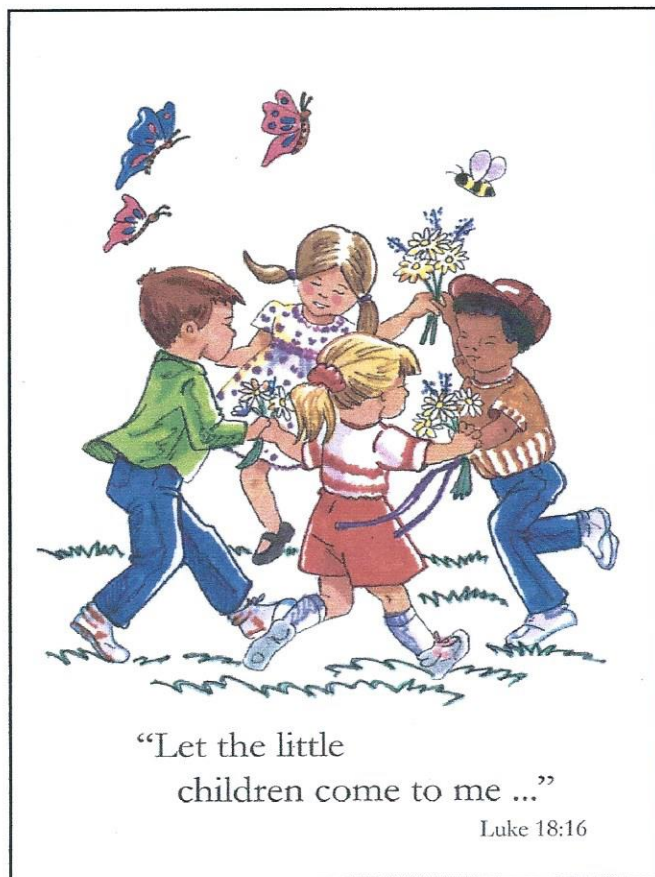
The **Crafter's Group** will be meeting one week early this month ~ on Wednesday, August 10, at 3 p.m. Come

join us for fellowship and fun. Bring a project to work on, or join us in making cards for the C.A.R.E. members of our congregation. As always, if you have any questions call **Mary Huie** (282-9712).

~ Mary Huie / Crafters coordinator

*The Prayer Shawl group will meet Thursday, August 11, at 1 p.m. in the lounge. Even if you can't participate during the school year, you're welcome to come during the summer!*





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

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2016

## August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 FPC@Community Food Response 11:00 AM Grief Support Group 7:00 PM Youth Fun Night @ the movies	2 NO Deacons meeting Most committees meet/ check w/lead elder 9:30 AM Staff meeting 12:15 PM L Afdahl organ recital @CUMC	3 NO worship and communion at Charter House in August 6:30 PM Madrigal singers rehearse	4	5	6
7 <b>Worship - 9:30 a.m.</b> Communion 10:30 AM Blood Pressure reading / Parish Nursing	8 11:00 AM Grief Support Group	9 9:30 AM Staff meeting	10 3:00 PM Crafters Group 6:30 PM Bible Study	11 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group	12 12:00 PM Yth/tubing w/Zumbro River Ratz	13
Problems are only opportunities with thorns on them. (Hugh Miller in Snow on the Wind)						
14 <b>Worship - 9:30 a.m.</b> Summer Choir (rehearse 9 a.m.)	15 Newsletter items due 11:00 AM Grief Support Group	16 9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Session/Fireside Rm	17	18	19	20 9:00 AM FPC Work Group at Habitat for Humanity 11:00 AM Memorial Service for Betty Chapman at FPC
21 <b>Worship - 9:30 a.m.</b> 5:30 PM Celebration of Life dinner/W&N Cmte	22 11:00 AM Grief Support Group	23 9:30 AM Staff meeting 12:00 PM First Players concert @Calvary Episcopal 6:00 PM Nominating Cmte	24 6:30 PM Bible Study	25	26 Mail newsletter 12:00 PM FP Band Camp concert	27
9:00 AM FIRST PLAYERS Band Camp (9 a.m.-noon)						
28 <b>Worship - 9:30 a.m.</b> 1:00 PM Trail Walk to Cascade Lakes	29 11:00 AM Grief Support Group 6:00 PM First Players Meet the Instrument	30 9:30 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Chancel Guild	31	<p><b>All aboard!</b></p> <p>When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer. (Corrie ten Boom)</p>		