



# The Good News

## of First Presbyterian Church for February 2017

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

### Shrove Tuesday pancake supper marks beginning of Lent

Join us on February 28 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We will be celebrating "getting the fat out" before we begin the season of Lent. We will serve pancakes and sausages with all the "trimmings" prepared by our master cooks, **Lowell and Patti Meyer**.

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

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

~ Jane Murl / Welcoming and Nurturing Committee

### Lenten activities offer times for study, reflection, worship

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

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

During the time between Ash Wednesday, 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 6:30-7:30 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.*

"We cannot pray in love and live in hate and still think we are worshipping God." (A.W. Tozer)

### A Festival of Music showcases Du Huang and Xiao Hu

**Time: Sunday, February 12 at 4 p.m.**

**Place: First Presbyterian Church sanctuary**

FESTIVAL  
OF MUSIC



The Unison Piano Duo of **Du Huang and Xiao Hu**, faculty members at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, has received enthusiastic responses from critics and audiences around the world. They have performed in concert halls in Europe, Asia, and America,

including Carnegie Hall in New York City, Orchestra Hall in Chicago, Grosser Saal of Konzerthaus in Vienna, Salle Gaveau and Salle Cortot in Paris, and both the Shanghai and Beijing Music Halls. The duo has also performed numerous concerts as part of Music Festivals in the Czech Republic.

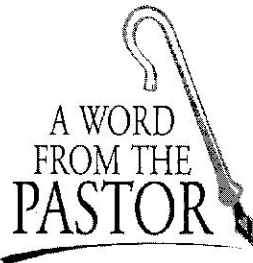
Live performances have been broadcast by Minnesota Public Radio and Iowa Public Television. The duo has premiered and commissioned new works for the piano duo medium recording on the *Innova* label in the United States and the *Yangtze River* label in China.

Huang and Hu received their early training at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and later graduated from the University of Cincinnati's Conservatory of Music as students of Eugene and Elizabeth Pridonoff. Both hold a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where they studied with pianist Gilbert Kalish. They have served as Adjudicators for the Chicago Two-Piano Festival and Competition, Hong Kong Schools' Music Festival, Shanghai International Piano Festival and Institute, and have served as piano and chamber music faculty at Saarburg International Music Festival in Germany.

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



Unison Piano Duo Xiao Hu and Du Huang



by Rev. T. J. Parlette

February 2017

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.

Peace, T. J.

## New member class forms February 5

Rev. Parlette will be offering a two-week new member class on February 5 and 12 at 9:45 a.m. Anyone interested in joining First Presbyterian Church, or in finding out more about our church, is welcome. If you decide to join, new members will meet with the Session on February 12 and be recognized by the congregation at the 11 a.m. service that day. Please call the church office (282-1618) if you would like to attend.

### Disciples needed

The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its

heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as "Christians" will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the kingdom of the heavens into every corner of human existence.

~ Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission*

## Stewardship Alive!

### The cost of hiding our light

A Los Angeles restaurant owner recently discovered that a neon light had been covered – without being disconnected first – during a construction project 77 years prior. The calculated electricity cost to run the hidden light all that time was \$17,000!

People don't intentionally hide light; that would be counterproductive, not to mention wasteful. Yet when we shrink back from sharing Jesus' good news, we do indeed hide "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14) that is in us. When we're too modest to use God-given talents such as singing, playing piano or reading to bring others joy, we hide our light. When we put our own wants ahead of meeting someone else's needs through giving and serving, we hide the light of God's love. And at what cost?

"Let your light shine before others," Jesus says, "that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (verse 16).



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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](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.**

## CWS Blanket Program aids victims of disasters

Sunday, February 12, our church will once again participate in the Church World Service Blanket program (commonly known as Blanket Sunday).

This world-wide program coordinates disaster relief and refugee assistance to people in need. Items provided besides blankets include emergency supplies such as tents, clean water, food packages and health kits. Through donations from thousands of congregations across the country, people around the world can recover from disasters, get a fresh start and communities can be rebuilt.

Members of our congregation have been very generous in their response to this offering and First Presbyterian has received special recognition for its contributions in past years. Envelopes for your donation will be in the pew racks or you can mail a donation to the church office anytime in February and mark it "Blanket Sunday."

Please remember to donate to this worthwhile mission. Your contribution will give hope for a brighter future to those who have been through a disaster.

~ Britta Youmans / Missions Committee

## 2016 Sharing Tree brings Christmas spirit to many

Thank you to everyone who took a gift tag or two from the Sharing Tree in December. This year there were close to 100 tags on our tree and because of your generosity we were able to deliver gifts to the daycare at the Alternative Learning Center, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Dorothy Day House, and MedCity Foundation.

All these organizations were very grateful for the many items they received from our church. Some of the "thank you" notes we received are posted on the Social Concerns bulletin board in the social hall.

Blessings to you in the new year!

~ Ruth Saling / Social Concerns Committee

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

~ Bev Lewis

Love the LORD your God...  
and hold fast to him.



DEUTERONOMY 30:20, NIV

## First Presbyterian Church celebrates 156th anniversary, recognizes 50<sup>+</sup>-year members



The First Presbyterian Church of Rochester was founded on February 17, 1861, by Sheldon Jackson. Since then we have traveled the roads of 156 years. Some of these roads have been rough, some smooth, some straight, some winding, but each one has helped reveal to us the love of God working through our lives.

On February 19 we will honor and say "thank you" to 81 "golden" people who have been members for at least 50 years. Their names have been in our bulletins and newsletters as Sunday School teachers, ushers, choir members, stewardship campaign workers, elders, and deacons. Many of them still appear on the church's doorstep regularly as volunteers.

Our most senior member, **Ursula Thedens**, was confirmed at First Presbyterian in 1942. Our oldest "golden," **Margaret Harris**, joined in 1951. Our youngest "golden," **Roger Shepherd**, was confirmed in 1966.

The list of 50+-year members includes

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

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

from the FPC Parish Nursing program

## The Gray Sky Blues ~~~ ways to cope in February



Disorder (appropriately labeled "SAD").

The reduced sunlight affects our brains and neurotransmitters such as serotonin and melatonin, resulting in irritability, sadness, oversleeping, food cravings, and other depression symptoms. What can we do to fight off the blues?

1. **Consider talking to your doctor**, especially if you are having thoughts of hurting yourself or if you are turning to alcohol or other destructive habits for relief. There are medications and light boxes that can help with these symptoms !
2. **Get sunlight however you can.** Open your window, go for a walk, sit outside as long as you can, and do whatever possibly to make your space brighter.
3. **Exercise regularly** - exercise makes almost everything better.
4. **Stay social** - staying connected is more important than ever this time of year. It's easy to stay home by the fire, but make it a priority to seek out friends and family. They need the contact too!

*And remember... the days are getting longer, so summer is on its way!*

~ Ariel Boswell / FPC Parish Nursing Advisory Council

## Sitter Service plans next parents' evening out February 10

February's Sitter Service will be February 10 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sign up in the church atrium after worship on Sunday, February 5 or call the church office by Tuesday, February 7.

We had a great time at January's Sitter Service with 9 kids and 10 volunteers, including **Phyllis Schmid, Allyson Maurer, Diane Grill, Cindy Kunzman, Marylynn Aalderks, Britta and Jay Youmans, Jean Abels, Sandy Holloway and Otis Laurberg.**

We are also looking for more volunteers for one or more evenings. We can also use some table/board games in good condition. Please contact **Gayle Jones** (993-2443 mngjones@gmail.com ) to volunteer or with questions.

~ Gayle Jones / Sitter Service coordinator



## Ministry of Music

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

Next to theology I give to music the highest place and honor. Music is the art of the prophets, the only art that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.

(Martin Luther)

Singing and ringing schedule for February			
	8:30	11:00	Both
February 5	Chancel Choir	Calvin Choir	Joyous Praise
February 12	Chancel Choir	Cherub Choir	Alleluia Rngrs
February 19	Chancel Choir	Special music	
February 26	Calvin Choir	Chancel Choir	Jubilate Deo

## Opportunities abound for adult study, discussion

Members have asked for in-depth studies and here are several great opportunities covering a wide variety of topics and interests!

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

<b>Bible Study (South Fireside)</b> <i>Kerygma</i>	The Kerygma Class will continue their study of the Gospel of <i>Matthew</i> . The class is led by <b>Jane Goodfriend and Ruth Walts.</b>
<b>Current Issues (Lounge)</b>	<i>Current Events: the Pros and Cons</i> is the overall theme for the 2016-2017 year. The Current Issues discussion is led by <b>Al Depman.</b>
<b>Parenting Support Group (Social Hall)</b>	The Family Support Group is moving to a monthly format! Join us at our table in the social hall between the services on Sunday, February 26 for a discussion of "Parenting God's children in a gendered world." The discussion will be led by <b>Ariel Boswell and Lucinda Clements.</b>

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

<b>Bible Study (Sheldon Jackson Lounge)</b>	<b>February</b> Book study of Timothy Keller's <i>The Reason for God</i> . All are invited; books are provided. The Bible Study is led by <b>Al Depman.</b>  # # #  <b>March 8 - April 12</b> A Lenten Study led by <b>Rev. T. J. Parlette</b> <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.
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# ♥ Financial Fitne\$\$: giving is good for your heart ♥

## Session adopts \$787,687 budget

At its January meeting Session adopted a budget of \$787,687 for 2017. This is just under a 1% (\$6,513) decrease from the 2016 budget.

The budget will be underwritten by general budget pledges (\$601,935), outreach pledges (\$102,752), one-time gift (\$15,000), contributions over pledge (\$45,000), plate offering (\$13,000), miscellaneous income (\$8,500), and interest (\$1,500).

Committees were diligent in watching their budgets, and we ended 2016 with a balance of \$17,602 that will be added to the Capital Reserve Fund for extraordinary expenses or to cover years when we have a deficit.

Budget area	2016 Actual	2017 Budget
Building/Grounds, incl CapM Fd	92,507	96,300
Christian Education	5,677	7,675
Youth Ministry	1,715	2,955
Mission (including designated projects, Unified Mission, Theological Education Fund)	45,880	47,082
Office Services	22,914	22,875
PCUSA Per Capita assessment	24,570	25,900
Personnel/Administration	498,880	527,500
Social Concerns	20,909	21,000
Stewardship/Finance	21,210	21,500
Welcoming/Nurturing	5,676	7,400
Worship/Music	<u>12,728</u>	<u>13,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$746,950</b>	<b>\$787,687</b>

## Special Offerings raise \$46,354

What a congregation! On behalf of the many people who will benefit from your generosity, we are happy to announce and thank you for the special donations you made in 2016. In addition to the \$46,354 listed, donors supported the anthem fund, Easter brunch, and implementation projects.

Birthday Offering (PW)	1,045
Blanket Program (CWS)	5,071
Channel One/Minnesota FoodShare	11,212
Christmas Joy Offering (PCUSA)	6,835
Deacons Fund	2,129
Medical Missions Offering (PW)	4,225
One Great Hour of Sharing (PCUSA)	8,209
PCUSA Mission Coworker Support	2,000
Peacemaking Offering (PCUSA)	3,487
Witness/Pentecost Offering (PCUSA)	3,141

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

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

### Financial Statement January 2016 - December 2016

#### General Operating Budget

Balance (1/1/2016)	\$ 42,837.47
Receipts (2016)	+ 730,666.53
Disbursements (2016)	- 755,902.00
Balance (12/31/15)	\$ 17,602.41

## Stewardship 2017: 221 pledging units commit \$704,687

General Budget = \$601,935; Outreach = \$102,752



Range of Pledges	Cumul	Number pledges	Cumulative	Amount pledged	
Per year	number	as cumulative %	amount	as cumulative %	
Per year	Per week	pledges	pledged	of total pledge	
10000-39000	192-750	13	3.3%	221,894	31.5%
7000-9999	134-192	22	5.5%	295,560	41.9%
6000-8999	115-134	30	7.5%	345,776	49.1%
5000-5999	96-115	41	10.3%	404,351	57.4%
4000-4999	77-96	55	13.8%	465,717	66.1%
3000-3999	58-77	75	18.8%	533,265	75.7%
2500-2999	48-58	86	21.5%	563,552	80.0%
2000-2499	38-48	102	25.5%	601,738	85.4%
1500-1999	29-38	120	30.0%	631,748	89.6%
1000-1499	19-29	150	37.5%	666,811	94.6%
500-999	10-19	192	48.0%	695,895	98.8%
Under 500	1-10	222	55.5%	704,687	100.0%

Total = 221 pledges/385 potential pledges 704,687

\* Of the 164 units from whom we did not receive pledges, we expect about 65 to make a donation in 2017.



*Let  
Justice  
Flow*

## Plan now for Synod School 2017

Are you ready for the next installment of Synod School? Summer is just a few months away and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies is looking ahead to the last week in July — July 23-28 — when Synod School 2017 takes place at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Theme for this year's event is "Let Justice Flow."

J. Herbert Nelson, recently elected stated clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will be the convocation speaker, and Cláudio Carvalhaes, well-known speaker and worship leader, will lead evening worship.

Nelson, a noted speaker and preacher, and a strong force on issues of social justice, previously served as director of the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C.

Carvalhaes, a native of Brazil, joined the faculty of Union Theological Seminary in New York City last fall. He previously served on the faculty of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Louisville (Ky.) Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Synod School, an annual midsummer ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, is for laity, clergy, families, and singles. It is fun and mind-stretching courses, worship and singing you'll long remember, and times for both fellowship and private reflection.

Eighty classes for adults, as well as a full program for children and youth, provide great opportunities for learning, renewal and fun. Discover Synod School and you'll know why so many people keep returning.

Registration for Synod School 2017 will open March 1. The catalogue and additional information will be posted on the Synod's WEB page at [www.lakesandprairise.org/SynodSchool](http://www.lakesandprairise.org/SynodSchool). We will also have copies of the catalogue in the church office beginning in March.

## Family Support Sunday school class moves to monthly format

The Family Support Group is moving to a monthly format! Join us at our table in the social hall between the services for a discussion of "Parenting God's children in a gendered world." The class will meet February 26, March 19, and April 23.



## Branching Out, Connecting Through Christ Welcome to Clearwater Forest!

A stunningly beautiful camp and retreat setting on Clearwater Lake in central Minnesota, Clearwater Forest has been changing lives in God's woods and waters since 1954.

At Clearwater Forest, each session of camp for children, youth, adults and families is rich in a variety of activities, fresh air and engaging worship. And there really are camps for all ages (from grade 3 through senior adults) and interests.

The summer staff (youth development specialists) complete rigorous training in areas of spiritual development, small group facilitation, recreational opportunities at the camp, as well as the many safety procedures necessary to conduct as safe a program as possible. The loving, enthusiastic and dedicated staff provide safety nets for campers to take healthy risks through fun, challenging and adventurous activities. From learning to paddle a sea kayak to cooking over a fire to snorkeling to completing the High Ropes Course, we provide challenges which will help any camper stretch and grow in a safe Christian community.

Leadership experiences abound for all ages of campers — they will be able to choose daily activities, participate in planning and leading worship, and opportunities to lead their cabin or quest groups through a variety of activities.

Come connect with others and God through Christ as we explore our theme,

- share meals in covenant with one another
- learn that your actions can be transformative to others
- learn that in the choices that you make, your brokenness strengthens you and binds you to one another in God's love
- accept God's forgiveness and grace
- continue the experience of camp in your everyday life

Clearwater Forest is the shared camp and retreat ministry of the Presbyteries of the Twin Cities Area, Minnesota Valleys, Northern Waters, Northern Plains and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. For more information log on to [www.ClearwaterForest.org](http://www.ClearwaterForest.org).





## 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:** February 20 at 1 p.m. in the lounge.

Hostesses: **Jane Hallman** and **Elizabeth Remfert.**

Devotions: **Naomi Spiekerman.** Program: **Barbara Boyer** (Bible study). You are invited!

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

Hostess: **Sally Brooks.** Program: **Judy Smithson** (Bible Study). Devotions: **Judy Smithson.** Project: Freewill donation to help provide food for a Gift of Life House dinner.

**Ruth Circle:** February 10 at 10 a.m. in the lounge.

Hostess: **Marion Pitts.** Devotions: **Jean Abels.** Program: **Jan Sherman** will present lesson #6 in the Bible Study "Who Is Jesus?".

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Join us Thursday, February 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.

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

## 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.

## Hospital policies restrict access to patient census

Due to policy changes at the hospitals in Rochester, we no longer have access to the religious census list. This means that the pastors and the deacons have no way to check if any of our members are in the hospital. Please assist us in providing spiritual support during your hospital stay by calling the church office, or having a friend call on your behalf, to let us know you are there.

## Church Family News

### *Anniversaries*

Congratulations to **Warren and LaDonna Fay** who will celebrate their 62nd wedding anniversary February 14.

### *Birthdays*

Happy Birthday to **Norman Nelson** who will celebrate his 91st birthday February 9.

Happy Birthday to **Isabel Huizenga** who will celebrate her 96th birthday February 28.

## Crafter's Group welcomes young and old!



Crafters Group will meet Wednesday, February 15, at 3 p.m. in the social hall. You can join us to make cards for our C.A.R.E. members, or bring a project of your own to work on. All card supplies will be provided.

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

## "Boxtops for Education" provides school supplies for Kemmerer Village

We send the Boxtops to Kemmerer Village, a child care agency in Assumption, Illinois, which redeems them for school supplies. Kemmerer cares for forty-four children on campus in their residential program (ages 12-19). They also oversee the care of sixty children (infancy to age 21) in thirty foster homes where they have licensed and trained foster parents. There is a container in the foyer for your collection. **Juanita Heikes** is the organizer for this project.

*Do you know someone who could use a walker bag?  
We have a good supply of them in a cupboard in the  
south fireside room.*



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!

Copies of *The Annual Reports for the Congregational Meeting* are available in the atrium, foyer, narthex, and church office.



May the God of hope  
fill you with all **JOY AND PEACE**  
as you trust in him so that  
you may overflow with **HOPE**  
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

First Presbyterian Church  
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## February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday worship schedule</b> 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.			<b>1</b> Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual FPC@Friendship Place School dismissed after lunch 1:00 PM Charter House worship and communion 6:30 PM Bible Study/lounge	<b>2</b> 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 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 9:40 AM New Mbr class 11:00 AM Calvin Choir sings	<b>6</b> FPC@Community Food Response	<b>7</b> Most committees meet/ check w/lead elder 9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Deacons/south fireside	<b>8</b> Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual FPC@Friendship Place 1:00 PM Kitchen Guild 6:30 PM Bible Study/lounge	<b>9</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>10</b> 5:30 PM Sitter Service (5:30-9:30 p.m.)	<b>11</b>
<b>Our greatest fulfillment lies in giving ourselves to others. (Henri J.M. Nouwen)</b>						
<b>12</b> CWS Blanket Sunday Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Alleluia Rings rings (both) 8:30 AM Chancel/Yth Chr sings 10:40 AM New Mbr class w/Session 11:00 AM Cherub Choir sings 1:00 PM FOM class and discussion	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b> 9:30 AM Staff meeting	<b>15</b> Newsletter items due Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual FPC@Friendship Place 9:15 AM Priscilla Circle/lounge 3:00 PM Crafters Group/SHall 6:30 PM Bible Study/lounge	<b>16</b> 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>17</b> <i>156th Anniversary of First Presbyterian Church</i>	<b>18</b> 10:00 AM Ruth Circle/ lounge
FPC hosts Family Promise (2/12-2/19/2017)						
<b>19</b> <b>Anniversary Sunday</b> Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) 8:30 AM Chancel/Yth Chr sings FPC hosts Family Promise	<b>20</b> <b>Presidents' Day</b> 1:00 PM Esther Circle/ lounge <b>No school/Presidents' ...</b> <b>Church closed</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Session/Fireside Rm 7:15 PM FOM Cmte/north fireside	<b>22</b> Bells/choir/youth grps - as usual FPC@Friendship Place 6:30 PM Bible Study/ lounge	<b>23</b> 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Transfiguration Sunday Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Jubilate Deo (both) 8:30 AM Calvin Choir sings 11:00 AM Chancel/Youth Choir sings	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:30 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Chancel Guild 5:30 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper/W&N Cmte	<b>Wednesday youth schedule</b> 4:15 p.m. Alleluia Ringers (grades 2-5) 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir (grades 6-12) 5:45 p.m. Middle and High School youth 7:00 p.m. Joyous Praise bells (intergenerational)			