

The Good News

of First Presbyterian Church for March 2018

“A new commandment I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

(John 13:34 [NIV])

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 now and Easter, April 1 we invite you to join in these activities:

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

Chancel Choir, orchestra lead worship March 11

The Chancel Choir and church orchestra with guest instrumentalists and singers will lead us in Lenten worship March 11 with contemporary composer Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living*. Published in 2014, Mr Forrest has beautifully composed musical settings of familiar texts for worship:

- *Introit - Kyrie* (Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy)
- *Vanitas Vanitatum* (Vanity of vanities, all is vanity - from Ecclesiastes; with additional text from the Dies Irae and the book of Job)
- *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world have mercy upon us) followed by a thrilling Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts)
- Concluding with a very sweet and meaningful *Lux Aeterna* (May light eternal shine upon them, O Lord ...) including the familiar text from Matthew 11 “Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Worship is at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Soloists are **Edra Clements**, **Elizabeth Woolner**, and **Michael Cutrer**. Please invite others to join us in worship that day!

~ Lee J. Afdahl / Director of Music

A Festival of Music welcomes Wartburg College Castle Singers

Time: Sunday, March 18 at 4 p.m.

Place: First Presbyterian Church sanctuary

FESTIVAL
OF MUSIC



The Wartburg College Castle Singers from Waverly, Iowa have been hailed as a model of musicianship, performing a wide variety of choral literature with flexibility, stamina, and dramatic flair. Under the direction of **Dr. Nicki Bakko Toliver**, this chamber ensemble sings everything from Byrd to the Beatles and beyond. Comprised of advanced vocalists who are dedicated to exploring challenging choral literature, the Castle Singers enjoy performing both on and off campus throughout the academic year.

The Castle Singers will be joined by Wartburg's chamber orchestra Kammerstreicher (in German, literally “chamber strings”). The string ensemble's repertoire is equally as eclectic as the Castle Singers, playing traditional music by classical giants like Mozart, Beethoven, and Bach, as well as arrangements of songs by contemporary artists, such as Radiohead. Kammerstreicher's conductor, **Dr. Jacob Tews**, is a gifted composer, regularly writing music for his ensembles in addition to many other music ensembles at Wartburg.

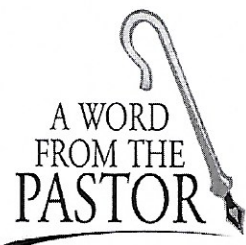
There is no admission fee for the concert, but a freewill offering will be accepted. Join us for a dessert reception following the concert.

~ Connie Larson and Britta Youmans / Festival of Music



**Wartburg College Castle Singers
in concert**

**First Presbyterian Church
March 18 / 4 p.m.**



by Rev. T. J. Parlette

March 2018

As I mentioned in my annual report, I am planning to lead a series of discussions on Debby Irving's recent book *Waking Up White*, and *Finding Myself in the Story of Race*. There will be three discussions, likely to be held on a Sunday morning

during education hour – the dates are still being worked out.

Terry Keleher, a Thought Leadership and Practice Specialist with a group called Race Forward, has this to say about *Waking Up White*:

"Waking Up White is a wake-up call for white people who want to consciously contribute to racial justice rather than unconsciously perpetuate patterns of racism. With honesty and humility, Debby Irving shares her own story of transformation – a journey of opening herself to learning about the realities of racism and the unintended impacts of white privilege. By confronting her own fears and mistakes, she gleans many useful lessons and tips that can help move others from confusion and avoidance to constructive engagement, authentic connection, and courageous action."

That sounds to me like a journey worth taking – I hope you will join me.

You can order *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving through Amazon or any other major distributor of books and media. I encourage you to order a copy today.

Peace, T. J.

games * egg dying * Easter story * crafts * egg hunt

Come on out to the Easter Egg Event!

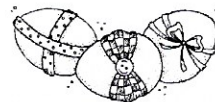
Join us the Saturday before Easter (Saturday, March 31) from 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. for the annual Easter Egg Event! Children through fifth grade are invited.

The morning will start with egg dying, crafts, and games. We'll then listen to the Easter story and end the morning with the famous egg hunt!

Kids should bring their own hard-boiled eggs to dye and a basket to fill with candy and prizes.

Parents and grandparents are encouraged to come with their children, particularly preschool-age and younger.

~ Susanna Stone / Coordinator Youth and Christian Education



Easter Brunch

Easter Sunday, April 1
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Egg bake, fruit, breads, coffee, and fellowship!

Join us starting at 8 a.m. in the social hall on Easter Sunday for our annual Easter Brunch. Proceeds from a freewill offering will be used by the youth group to complete service projects for the Rochester community.

We need your help – with donations of food, volunteers to serve brunch, and volunteers for set-up and clean-up. If you have questions or to volunteer to help, please contact **Susanna Stone** (stone.susanna@FPCRochester.org).

Or sign up via our Sign Up Genius page. Go to www.signupgenius.com, click on the magnifying glass in the upper right-hand corner, enter Susanna's email (stone.susanna@FPCRochester.org) in the text box, click the small box next to "I'm not a robot." You will be directed to our online sign-up page.



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The Good News is published the first of each month for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church (FPC). The newsletter tells the story of the church, promotes its programs, and publicizes opportunities to live out one's faith. Deadline for submission of material is the fifteenth of the preceding month.

Church Staff

Pastor	Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette
Associate Pastor	Jay P. Rowland
Director of Music	Lee J. Afdahl
Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education	Susanna L. Stone
Office Administrator	Susan K. Kruger
Facility Manager	Harry E. Coleman
Custodian	Bob R. Schalaus
Music Assistant	Kathleen M. Kuisle
Part-time custodians/security	Steven Aug, Vera Brooks, Sally Evans, Jason Kluck, Tami Rinn
Child Care Workers	Esther Labron, Margie Schaaf, Taylor Smith
Newsletter Editor	Carol J. Evans
Parish Associates	Anneliese Opitz, Roger Ring, Carol Shaffer, James Walker

Sunday services of worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.
Education classes: Sundays at 9:40 a.m.
Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;
Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-noon

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

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

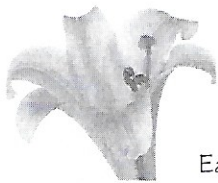
Minnesota FoodShare, a major program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC), began its work in 1982, with a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The effort was so successful, and the need was so evident, that it became 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, April 8 is the deadline for this year's donations.



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.

New support group formed for those who would like to lose weight

The Welcoming and Nurturing Committee is pleased to announce the formation of a new support group focused on helping those who would like to lose weight.

We will not follow or promote any one diet, but rather meet once a month to seek God's help and to support each other as we face the difficult burden of making healthy choices. There will be no weigh-ins....we will offer privacy and best of all, no meeting fees!

If you are interested, please contact **Gayle Jones** (507-993-2443 or mngjones@charter.net) and then come to our informational/get organized meeting on Sunday, March 4 at 9:45 a.m. in Room A103 (small classroom across from south fireside room). We will get acquainted and talk about when and where we want to meet.

In order to keep the group small enough to form supportive relationships, we will take only the first 12 who sign up.

~ Gayle Jones / coordinator

FPC Women's Retreat "Holy Solitude" March 16-18, 2018

All women of the Church are invited to attend the FPC Women's Retreat the weekend of March 16-18 at Eagle Bluff Learning Center, Lanesboro, Minnesota.

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

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

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

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

~ Lea Jennings

Mission Team returns to Bdecan Presbyterian Church this summer

2018 marks the fourth consecutive year that a mission team from our church will travel to Bdecan Presbyterian Church on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation near Devil's Lake, North Dakota. This year's dates are July 10-15. Plans are underway for teaching Vacation Bible School and other interactions with the Bdecan community including a celebration of Joe Obermeyer's five-year anniversary in this congregation.

Again this year, we will be cutting and tying baby blankets for the reservation's foster care program, the congregation's food and clothing pantry, and for our students to give to babies in their families. Last year we became aware of a particular need for warm winter clothing and the children will be making double-layer fleece hats—one for themselves and one for a friend.

We invite you to become part of our mission by contributing fleece for the blankets and hats and by participating in our "cut and tie" party on **Tuesday, April 17 from 1-4 p.m.** in the social hall. Each blanket requires 1 1/4 yards of "baby-themed" fleece to create a 45"x45" single layer blanket. Two yards of "kid-themed" fleece (in complimentary patterns or one plain and one patterned) are needed to make six hats. Our goal is fabric for 50 baby blankets and 60 hats. We ask that you wash the fabric before donating it.

In the months ahead there will be other opportunities for you to contribute to this mission. Please mark your calendar for our "cut and tie" party on April 17 and watch for the container in the foyer (mid-March) for your donated fleece. We appreciate ALL that you do for our Bdecan family!

~ Jane Hallman / Bdecan Mission Team

Opportunities for adult study, discussion Adult education ~ Sundays / 9:40-10:45 a.m.	
Bible Study (South Fireside)	The Kerygma Class continues a study of <i>The Jesus Movement and the World of the Early Church</i> . The class is led by Jane Goodfriend and Ruth Walts .
Current Issues (Lounge)	<i>Current Events: Beyond the Headlines</i> is the theme for the 2017-2018 year. The discussion is led by Al Depman .
Bible Study ~ Wednesdays / 6:30-8 p.m.	
Bible Study (Sheldon Jackson Lounge)	February 21- March 28 A Lenten Study led by Rev. T. J. Parlette <i>Moses:</i> <i>In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet</i> by Adam Hamilton.

"Don't start looking in the Bible for the answers it gives. Start by listening for the questions it asks."

(Frederick Buechner)



Ministry of Music


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

FOM continues Lenten recital series

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

Recitalists in March are

March 7	Paul Kosower, freelance organist Eau Claire, Wisconsin
March 14	Ceri Benson, organist St. Luke's Episcopal Church / Rochester, Minnesota
March 21	Lois Marsh, freelance organist Rochester, Minnesota

 Singing and ringing schedule for March			
	8:30	11:00	Both
March 4.	Chancel Choir	Calvin Choir	Jubilate Deo
March 11.	Choir Cantata <i>"Requiem for the Living"</i> by Dan Forrest Chancel Choir, soloists, orchestra		
March 18.	Chancel Choir	Cherub Choir	
March 25. <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Calvin Choir	Chancel Choir	Joyous Praise
March 29. <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	Jubilate Deo rehearses at 6 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearses at 6:30 p.m. Worship and Communion at 7 p.m. with Chancel Choir and Jubilate Deo Chancel Choir rehearses Easter music at 8 p.m.		
April 1. <i>Easter</i>	Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Chancel Choir (both services) Jubilate Deo (both services) Calvin Choir and Cherub Choir at 11 a.m.		

Sitter Service plans next parents' evening out March 9

Sitter Service had another big night on February 9 with 16 children attending. Thanks to all the volunteer sitters: **Mary Huie, Gayle Jones, Britta Youmans, Otis Laurberg, Dee Tiedeman, Mark Mueller, Sarah Edgerton, Lea Jennings, Cindy Kunzman, Sandy Holloway, Melissa Walk, Phyllis Schmid and Judy Felten.**

The next Sitter Service will be March 9 from 5:30 to 9:30 with sign-up in the church atrium on Sunday, March 4 or by contacting the church office or Gayle Jones by Tuesday, March 6.

~ Gayle Jones / Sitter Service coordinator

Easter is the season for One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the annual Lenten offering and is the single largest way that Presbyterians come together each year to work for a better world. The offering supports three major projects: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In the last couple years twenty-five states received help following natural and human-caused disasters and eleven countries received aid and support after catastrophic events. There is also ongoing assistance for refugees from Syria and South Sudan.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes. Communities across the United States and thirty-seven other countries have received grants.

The Self-Development of People Program invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty, and injustice. Projects focus on literacy, worker-owned cooperatives, advocacy, youth-led initiatives, skills development, farming, worker rights, immigration/refugee issues, and capacity building.

Your gifts will be received on Palm Sunday, March 25, and through the month of April. Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church and mark them for OGHS.

Your generosity fulfills a vision rooted in the biblical witness stated in Isaiah 58.12:

"You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in."

~ Jon Closson / Mission Committee

Church Library News for your Lenten reading

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

For this holy season, I'm recommending some of our newest books. These are not Lent-specific, but each offers thoughtful spiritual insights and guidance which make for excellent Lenten reading/reflection:

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

~ Rev. Jay Rowland



Susanna Stone
Coordinator of Youth
& Christian Education

March Youth Group News

The FPC Youth Group continues to stay busy! In February we packed mailbox stuffers for the 42 families staying at the Ronald McDonald House, which included a bit of crafting (check out Facebook for the pictures!). We also attended the Ash Wednesday service, played games, and continued building fellowship together. We went snow tubing at Ironwood Springs with youth from local Presbyterian churches and then enjoyed a pizza lunch. It was a blast!

All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us on Wednesdays from 5:45-7:00 p.m. for food, fellowship, and fun! We will meet four times in March: March 7, 14, 21, and 28.

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




Vacation Bible School: Save the Date!

Calling all FPC families and VBS volunteers: VBS will be held **Monday, June 11 - Friday, June 15 from 9 a.m. until noon** and is open to children entering kindergarten through 5th grade (based on 2018-2019 school year). VBS registration will begin in April.

Vacation Bible School: Volunteers Needed!

VBS requires at least 25 volunteers to work smoothly and we are looking to build our VBS volunteer team NOW! You can be as involved as you like, from leading a group, supporting a leader, providing snacks, or being a shepherd and making sure the children get to where they need to go. You can volunteer for all five days or only one day; for all three hours or just one hour. If you enjoy working with the youth of the church and are interested in assisting VBS in any way, please let **Susanna** know: stone.susanna@fpcrochester.org.

~ Susanna Stone

SUNDAY	MONDAY Children	TUESDAY Disaster Relief	WEDNESDAY Refugees	THURSDAY Poverty	FRIDAY Hunger	SATURDAY Education
 <p>LENTEN SHARING CALENDAR The calendar suggests a donation of units each day. Choose an amount for these units that is most appropriate for your family.</p>			<p><i>Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also. (Matthew 6.21)</i></p>	<p>Presbyterian Disaster Assistance helps anyone in need during a disaster. Together, we responded in Christ's name to hurricanes in the U.S. and Caribbean with food, water and supplies for affected communities and continue to work with our partners on long-term recovery needs. Because of gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is able to respond immediately all over the world.</p>		
To March 3	After a storm, food is something we can be thankful for. Give one gift for every meal you ate today.	Electricity is usually the first utility that is lost. Give one gift for every electrical outlet in the room you are currently in.	When storms hit Puerto Rico in 2017, even cellphones stopped working in some areas. Give one gift for every cell phone in your house.	Clean water can be priceless - especially in a disaster! Give enough gifts to buy one bottle of water.	Pets are often impacted by disasters as well. Give a gift for every pet in your home.	Blankets are used internationally to comfort those impacted by disasters. Give a gift for each blanket in your home.
March 4-10	The 2017 hurricanes were so severe that schools in parts of the Caribbean were closed for months. Give a gift for every year you have spent in school.	Communication can be incredibly difficult after a disaster, especially if the internet isn't working! Give a gift for every computer in your home.	<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>	When disaster hits our neighbors in North America, PDA is prepared to help. Say a special prayer today about helping people. Help someone who needs a hand.	The most vulnerable are often the most impacted in disasters. Say a prayer for children impacted by disasters, and give a gift for every flashlight in your home.	In some emergencies, people have to leave everything when they escape. PDA gives these people kitchen essentials like pots. Give a gift for each pot in your kitchen.
March 11-17	<p>The Presbyterian Hunger Program is able to help people with better tools and techniques for growing food, allowing them to grow more food so that all may be fed to address malnutrition in their communities. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing allow the Presbyterian Hunger Program to help people with better tools and techniques for growing food, allowing them to grow more food so that all may be fed and to address malnutrition in their communities and care for creation.</p>				In Uganda, Batwa women learn to farm so they can grow food for their families. Give a gift for every plant in your house.	<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>
March 18-24	Teaching about healthy food and safe food handling can change the health of an entire community! Give a gift if you've eaten a healthy meal today.	Rainwater is rare in some places, so collection systems are built. The water is used for growing plants. Give one gift for every day it rained (or snowed) in the past week.	Changing climates mean old farming techniques don't always work anymore, so farmers need to be taught new techniques. Give a gift for farmers who grow your food.	Hunger-related causes kill tens of thousands of people every day around the world. Give a gift for each meal you've eaten today.	Most people around the world don't have access to the many varieties of fruit and vegetables we have. Give one gift for each type of fruit in your house.	Being able to read can impact how healthy you are! Think of the ways you read when choosing healthy food and meals. Give a gift for every letter in your name.
March 25-31	Without the right nutrition in the first two years of life a child's physical and mental development is compromised. Give a gift for each toddler you know.	In some places in the U.S., it is hard to get to grocery stores. "These food deserts" impact the health of many. Give a gift for every place your family bought food this week.	In Papaye, Haiti, farmers are learning how to grow moringa trees. The Moringa leaves are superfood, helping hungry people! Give a gift for every tree at home.	<p>Self-Development of People helps families and communities become independent and self-sustaining through programs that encourage entrepreneurship, health, training and more. It supports organizations that help low-income individuals get what they need to be self-sustaining. In a number of cases, they've helped establish cooperatives that give entrepreneurial loans to new business owners who can then provide income to support families and build up their communities.</p>		
April 1 Easter Week	In some places, people walk for hours to find support from and worship with their family of faith. Give a gift for every time you went to church this month.	<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> Send your love with five units.	Tutors can help people prepare for school and get jobs. Give a gift for your favorite teacher and say a prayer of thanks for them.	Growing and selling vegetables from home gardens is a way people work to feed their families and make money. Give one gift for every type of vegetable in your home.	Social barriers are like locked doors that keep people from changing their situation or taking a chance so they can thrive. Give a gift for each door at home with a lock.	The Youth in Business Project helps Baltimore teens sell shirts they make so they can stay off the streets and way from gangs. Give 1 gift if you wore a shirt today.
<p><i>Daily closing prayer:</i> God, you give us many blessings and allow us to be a blessing to others. Thank you for the food on our table, and thank you for allowing us to be part of making sure the hungry are fed, those suffering from disasters are helped, and people experiencing poverty are given the tools that they need to succeed through One Great Hour of Sharing. Amen.</p>						



News from Presbyterian Women

* Sylvia Swede, facilitator

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

Esther Circle: Monday, March 19 at 1 p.m. in the lounge. Hostesses: **Kiyomi Takekawa** and **Alice Kerr**. Devotions: **Ginger Kirby**. Program: **Margie Schaaf**.

Priscilla Circle: Wednesday, March 21 at 9:15 a.m. in the lounge. Hostesses: **Marylynn Aalderks** and **Connie Smyrk**. Devotions: **Marilyn Olseen**. Program: **Steve Johnson** on the "Lost Boys of Sudan." Project: Channel One.

Ruth Circle: Saturday, March 10 (please note change of date due to Women's Retreat) at 10 a.m. in the lounge. Hostess: **Sarah Edgerton**. Devotions: **Laury Schalau**. Program: **Phyllis Schmid** (lesson #7 in the Bible Study "Cloud of Witnesses").

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

Soul Shop is coming to FPC on Saturday, April 28

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

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

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

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

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

~ Rev. Jay Rowland / Associate Pastor

Church Family News

Anniversaries

Congratulations to **David and Elaine Jones** who will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary March 7.

Congratulations to **Clayton and Jackie Moen** who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary March 16.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to **Shirley Gove** who will celebrate her 97th birthday March 1.

Happy Birthday to **Robert Kyle** who will celebrate his 90th birthday March 17.

Happy Birthday to **Val Battenburg** who will celebrate her 102nd birthday March 17.

Happy Birthday to **Ruby Rose** who will celebrate her 96th birthday March 17.

Happy Birthday to **Dan Moore**, who will celebrate his 92nd birthday March 21.

Happy Birthday to **Charles Smyrk**, who will celebrate his 90th birthday March 21.

Deaths

We extend our condolences to **Dennis and Ann Gastineau** on the death of Dennis' father, **Clifford Gastineau**, January 19. Cliff's memorial service will be Friday, April 6 at 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of **E. Omer Burgert**, who died January 24. Omer's memorial service will be Saturday, May 12 at 11 a.m. at First Presbyterian.

We extend our condolences to **Dan Moore** on the death of his wife, **Nadene (Sunny) Moore**, January 30. Nadene's memorial service was February 7.

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

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

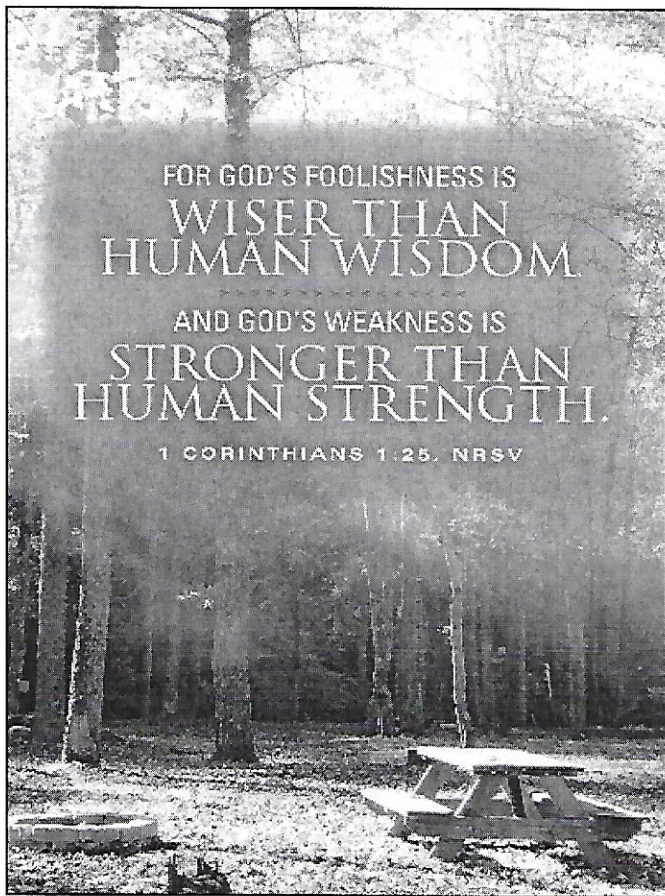
Put May 10 on your calendar for the Medical Missions Coffee at the home of Alice Kerr. Alice and Barb Boyer will talk about their experiences as Global Volunteers in Tanzania.

Calling all crafters!

The Crafters Group will meet Wednesday, March 21 at 3 p.m. in the Social Hall. Join us as we make cards for our C.A.R.E. members. All supplies are provided.

~ Mary Huie (282-9712) / Crafters coordinator

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



First Presbyterian Church
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 Rochester, Minnesota 55903-0906

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March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
Sunday morning schedule Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday school / all ages at 9:40 a.m. Cherub Choir at 10:20 a.m. Calvin Choir at 9:40 a.m.			Wednesday youth schedule 4:15 p.m. Alleluia Ringers (grades 2-5) 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir (grades 6-12) 5:45 p.m. Middle/High School youth 7:00 p.m. J Praise bells (intergenerational)			1	2	3			
			6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir			10:00 AM CWU World Day of Prayer @Our Savior's Lutheran			1:00 PM Orchestra rehearses for Cantata		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Communion Jubilate Deo (both) 8:30 AM Chancel/Yth Chr sings 9:30 AM Blood Pressure/Parish Nursing 9:45 AM Support Group / weight loss 11:00 AM Calvin Choir sings	FPC@Community Food Response <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">March is Minnesota FoodShare month</div>	Most committees meet/ check w/lead elder 9:30 AM Staff meeting 11:00 AM Grief Support Grp 7:00 PM Deacons/south fireside	FPC@Friendship Place 12:15 PM Lenten recital/P Kosower 1:00 PM Charter House worship and communion 6:30 PM Bible Study (led by TJParlette)	1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	5:30 PM Sitter Service (5:30-9:30 p.m.)	9:00 AM Presbytery/Valley Community/Golden Valley 10:00 AM Ruth Circle/lounge 1:00 PM Chancel/orchestra rehearse for cantata <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Set clocks ahead 1 hour t...</div>					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17					
Choir Cantata Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Chancel/Yth Chr sings (both) Orchestra (both)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">The door to opportunity is marked "push."</div>	9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:15 PM FOM Cmte/north fireside	FPC@Friendship Place 12:15 PM Lenten recital/C Benson 1:00 PM Kitchen Guild 5:30 PM Supper / St. Pat's Day 6:30 PM Bible Study (led by TJParlette)	Newsletter items due 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Women's Retreat at Eagle Bluff (3/16-18/2018)</div>						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) 8:30 AM Chancel/Yth Chr sings 11:00 AM Cherub Choir sings 4:00 PM FOM/Warburg Castle Singers <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Women's Retreat at Ea...</div>	1:00 PM Esther Circle/lounge	9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Session/Fireside Rm	FPC@Friendship Place 9:15 AM Priscilla Circle/lounge 12:15 PM Lenten recital/L Marsh 3:00 PM Crafters Group/SHall 6:30 PM Bible Study (led by TJParlette)	6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir							
25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
Palm Sunday Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Joyous Praise rings (both) 8:30 AM Calvin Choir sings 11:00 AM Chancel/Yth Chr sings		9:30 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Chancel Guild	Mail newsletter Mail quarterly statements FPC@Friendship Place 6:30 PM Bible Study (led by TJParlette)	Maundy Thursday One Great Hour of Sharing 7:00 PM Chancel/Yth Ch sings 7:00 PM Jubilate Deo rings 7:00 PM Worship and communion 8:00 PM Chancel/Yth Choir rehearses	Good Friday Noon - Ecumenical Good Friday service Noon - Chancel Chr sings <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">No school/Spring Brea...</div>	9:30 AM EasterEggEvnt					