

First Things First

March 2019

Providence

As we enter into the season of Lent (beginning with Ash Wednesday on 6-March), we rewalk the road with Jesus from Nazareth to the cities around the Sea of Galilee, like Capernaum and Magdala, then south through Samaria to Bethany and Jericho, and finally along the Via Dolorosa (the Way of Sorrow) in Jerusalem. When we contemplate the tremendous sacrifice Jesus made, we should also consider how reliable God is, having promised the Savior so many years before.

God has been our help in ages past by shepherding a people through which Jesus was able to dive down into the muck and work of a world filled with the kindness and cruelty of humans. In Jesus, God provided an act of mercy so profound, we cannot understand it, and sometimes are unable to bear it. God is our hope for years to come through the continuing providence to this flock of believers, called to lift high the cross and proclaim God's love and mercy to everyone.

God's providence has alighted on this congregation in so many ways, but we must remember it isn't because we are more fit or deserving than others. The blessings that become apparent are in fact only the reflection of God's goodness turned outward to the surrounding community. Jesus came to bring good news to the poor, to comfort the brokenhearted, and to free the captives (Isaiah 61). As disciples of Jesus, we walk in his footsteps, declaring and demanding the same.

During Lent, more than any other time of the year, we remember that our chains are gone because Christ sacrificed for us, and we dedicate ourselves to break the chains of the oppressed, the outcast, the addicted, and the hopeless. God's providence has blessed us, and calls us to multiply those blessings by sharing with our neighbors, lifting all to see the kingdom.

God's family is so big!

-Andrew Byshenk, Clerk of the Session

March Calendar



MARCH 3

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room
- 11:15 AM **Adult Education***
Oak Room

MARCH 6

- 7:00 PM **Ash Wednesday Service***
Faith Springs Church

MARCH 10

- 2:00 AM **Daylight Saving Time Begins***
- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Communion Sunday
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room
- 11:15 AM **Adult Education***
Oak Room

MARCH 13

- 5:30 PM **Session Meeting**
Office
- 6:30 PM **Deacon's Meeting**
Oak Room

MARCH 14

- 8:00 AM **Men's Breakfast**
Dady-Oh's

MARCH 17

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **St. Patrick's Fellowship Event***
Dining Room

MARCH 20 Spring!!!!



MARCH 24

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room

MARCH 31

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room
- 11:15 AM **Adult Education***
Oak Room

*see article

Staff Vacation:

March 13 (1/2-day) and March 14: Therese off

Daylight Saving Time

begins Sunday, March 10

Turn your clock ahead before you go to sleep on Saturday, March 9, so you can make it to the church on time!



March Birthdays

- 3/4 Vicki Sulsberger
- 3/5 Joan Schmidt
- 3/6 Beverly Franzke
- 3/9 Katie Ebel
- 3/10 Shannon Fisher
- 3/12 Alyssa Pugh
- 3/14 Dick Seeling
- 3/15 Laura Ulrich
- 3/17 Patrick Price
- 3/21 Ilisia DuMez



Please note office hours are
Monday through Thursday,
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.



Faith Springs Ash Wednesday Service

First Pres will **NOT** hold an Ash Wednesday service this year, but we have been invited to take part in the service at **Faith Springs, led by Rev. Katie Ebel. The service is at 7:00p.m. on March 6, and the address is N13 W28771 Silvernail Rd, Pewaukee.**

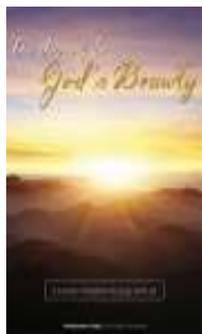
Please consider taking part in this service for the imposition of ashes to help prepare for our Lenten journey, intentionally traveling through sin and sorrow, despair and doubt, until we reach again the joy of resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Adult Education

If you've walked through a forest or viewed a sunset and thought such beauty reveals God's character and purpose, you have something in common with the Theologian-Scientists who call themselves "evolutionaries". **Join us in the Oak Room after worship on March 03, March 10 and March 31** to continue our investigation of the evolving worldview where religion and science together inform us about God, using the final sessions of the video and guided discussion series "Painting the Stars" produced by evolutionary theologian Bruce Sanguin and published by Living the Questions.

Lenten Devotionals

2019 Lenten Devotionals, **Awakening to God's Beauty** are available by the sign-up sheets.



St. Patrick's Day Fellowship

Join us after service on Sunday, March 17 for our St. Patrick's Day Fellowship; Congregation is encouraged to bring appetizers, salads, or desserts. The church will provide Potato Soup, Rubeen (& Rachel) sandwiches (with and without sauerkraut), chips, and beverages.

Easter Flowers

This Easter we will have our traditional flowers available for order, as well as an option to make a gift through the Presbyterian Mission Agency's (PMA) Giving Catalog. If you're not sure what you might do with one more hyacinth, consider making a donation of a family of chickens, a farming kit, or a container garden to help those in need. You'll find more details on the **order form included with this newsletter.**

All flower and PMA contributions can be made in honor of or in memory of a loved one and all will be noted on our Easter bulletin insert. Please fill out your order and place it in the offering plate, drop off in Therese's mailbox or mail to the church office. **Orders are due in the office by Monday, March 18.**



Have something for the **April** newsletter? Please send it to

presby1@sbcglobal.net

or drop it in Therese's mailbox by **Thursday, March 14** to have it included. Any items received after the 15th will be included in the May newsletter.

Loaves & Fishes

Save the date for **Loaves and Fishes: Sunday, March 24 and Sunday, June 23**. First Presbyterian will provide and cook the food for March 24th.

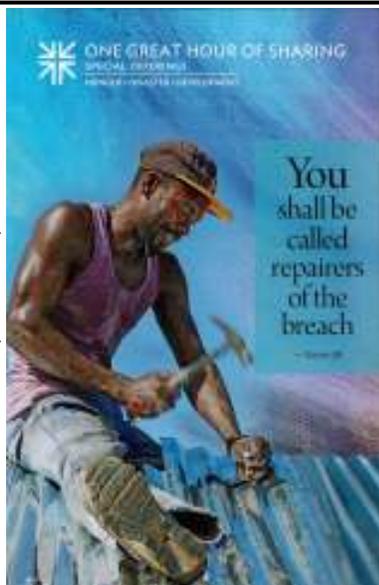


Southminster will provide and cook food for June 23. We are accepting any donations of baked goods, food and manpower! Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. More details will be provided in the March bulletins.

~Lora Collins

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing: Each year we participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering sponsored by the PC (USA). Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great



Hour of Sharing to share God's love with those in need. Your generous gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Please consider contributing when the One Great Hour of Sharing is collected this Easter. More details about the offering will be made during worship and through bulletin inserts.

Presbytery Meeting Recap

The February Presbytery meeting took place at Living Hope Presbyterian Church on the 19th. Living Hope is located within Dickson Hollow Senior Living Center, Menomonee Falls. First Pres was represented by one member with voice and vote.

PDA, Resiliency After Traumatic Violence

In a pre-Presbytery meeting, Lori Kraus from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance discussed responding to human-made disasters, specifically incidents of gun violence. Response to these traumatic occurrences requires some different considerations than responding to natural disasters. Kraus discussed how faith communities can try to prepare for such occurrences and what sorts of things to beware of in the aftermath.

Business Meeting

At the business meeting, the congregations were encouraged to become "Matthew 25" churches by engaging in three targeted missions: building congregational vitality, dismantling systemic poverty and eradicating structural racism.

Both Lori Kraus of the PDA and Rhonda Kruse of the Presbyterian Mission Agency expressed their thanks to churches that donate money through the four special offerings. The upcoming One Great Hour of Sharing offering provides a major source of income for the PDA.

First Pres Awarded a Certificate

Kruse presented several churches, including First Pres Waukesha, with a Certificate of Appreciation for being a "Four for Four congregation," because we donated to all four of the special offerings this past year.

Education Hour – Reconciliation

Special guests David Sawyer and Deborah Fortel lead participants in activities designed to encourage a pathway toward reconciliation, including breathing prayer exercises and careful listening exercises.

Feed My Starving Children - local food packing event

Would you like to help feed starving children? Join us on **Saturday, March 16, at Oakwood Church from 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM, in Hartland, WI**, for a food packing event. Feed My Starving Children® is a Christian non-profit committed to feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and Feed My Starving Children ships these meals to distribution partners around the world.

Please contact **Erika Margis by March 10** if you would like to volunteer or if you have questions. If you would like to donate money instead, that is also welcome. Come help make a difference!



Happy Spring!

2019 Per Capita

Per Capita for 2019 in the Presbytery of Milwaukee remains at \$38.00. Please consider contributing your per capita so that First Presbyterian might use your share elsewhere in the budget. Per Capita is not taken from your regular contributions because it must be designated by you for this specific use.

Please note "per capita" in the memo line. Thank you!

Session Recap

Pastor Update

The Session finalized the contract with Susan McDougall, and it was approved by the Commission on Ministry (COM). The COM performed background checks but still needs to interview her. An interview was scheduled for March 1. We hope that she will be able to start by beginning of April.

We will continue to have guest pastors and lay leadership until Susan is able to be installed as Stated Supply Pastor. In February and March we moved Communion to the second Sunday to facilitate scheduling pulpit supply.

We arranged for pastoral care for the interim. Please contact the office if you are in need of pastoral care, or contact an Elder. They will put you in touch with a pastor who can help.

Other Session Business of Note

*Erika Margis is the new Elder for Mission. Thank you, Barb Klemp, for your years of service on the Session!

*We elected Andrew Byshenk Clerk of Session for 2019.

*We elected Sara Winkelmann Treasurer for 2019. Thank you to Dick Seeling for your years of serving as Treasurer!

*We decided to review Elder distribution of responsibilities.

>These Days Daily Devotionals are available on the table by the sign up sheets. For April/May/June 2019.

Former First Pres Member Ordained and A Thank you from Cathleen Morris:

“My spiritual journey began and was nurtured by my parents, John and Eloise Morris; my paternal grandparents, Leslie and Kathryn Morris; and my aunts and uncles; all of whom were Presbyterians who lived out their Christian values. My mother was a Bible major at Carroll College (now Carroll University). My father came from a very religious family, the Davies family, which included my great uncle, Dr. Zachariah (Zac) Davies, who was a Professor and Chair of the Religion Department at Carroll College for 30 years. My parents, my brothers, Leslie, Richard and Robert, and I, attended First Presbyterian Church, almost every Sunday while I was growing up. My parents were members, and when my brothers and I were confirmed, we became members, too. After graduating high school, and during my entire adult life, I have continued to attend church almost every Sunday and to be involved in the life and work of Christ's church in the communities in which I have lived.

Growing up at First Presbyterian, provided me with opportunities to interact with church leaders, including many wonderful people who served on committees, as teachers, elders, deacons, choir members, etc. I fondly remember Ella Holberg, Marianne Widule, and John Taylor, who were Sunday school teachers who were very involved in Christian Education leadership at the church. I participated in Sunday school, choir, youth group, other church activities, and as an adult, served on the session and the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Milwaukee. Of special note, were the many women who held lay leadership roles--Bettie Stevens, Gladys Manke, and others who worked tirelessly to establish and support The Caring Place; Lacey Ballmann, Jo Hoag, Ruth Van Haitsma, and Theresa Libbey, who served in multiple roles.

At a time when men held most of the leadership roles in the church and our larger society, these women showed me that I too, could be a leader. I am grateful, as well, for Mrs. Lois Stair, a moderator of the General Assembly (the highest lay position in Presbyterianism), who was a member of First Presbyterian, and The Rev. Dr. Deborah Block, (Pastor and head of staff, at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee), who was one of my high school youth group leaders at First Presbyterian.



All of these people (and many others), contributed to my church experiences, helped establish my Christian identity and furthered my desire to be a leader in the church. I am very thankful for the many saints at First Presbyterian Church, who gave me the roots that I needed to grow as a Christian, to graduate from McCormick Theological Seminary, and to (soon) become an ordained minister. Thank you!” ~Cathy

Cathleen’s Ordination took place on Saturday, February 23 at Central Lutheran Church in Winona, WI. She will be serving St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wilton, WI.