

February 2018



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

NEWS AND VIEWS

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. selections from Ephesians 4:7-16

As I write this and we approach the beginning of February, the reality of a major building project is setting in. Preparations are beginning as we will relocate the front office to the 5th street side of the church. The church library has been put in storage for the coming year in order to make room for a reception area, and Heather Rey's office has moved upstairs to accommodate space for a work room. The two upstairs Sunday School rooms that will be impacted are being cleaned out. Discussions are being held nearly daily on how we will accommodate our programs and others who use our building, such as the Linn County Emergency Food Pantry, Foster Care Review Board and more. And this is not even to mention the number of meetings and conversations that are happening related to the actual building project itself! The work of building takes energy and dedication, with a dash of imagination and flexibility on the side.

One might say the same is true for the other building we do at the church, the building up of the body of Christ in love. Tending to a space and a community where people from a diversity of backgrounds can be welcomed and valued, can engage in worship and religious practices, can deepen their knowledge of scripture and its intersection with our world and daily life, and can grow in faith...that, too, is a somewhat

daunting bit of work, and not something any one person can do alone. It is perhaps a good time for us this year, to dust off Paul's words to the church in Ephesus, read them again, and claim them as our own guide. We each have something to offer this community of faith, to each other as we build up the body of Christ. We are a people at work together, ever growing in our understanding of the depth of God's love for us in Christ and in our call to love one another.

In February and beyond, we will be reclaiming our use of a time & talents inventory. It is my hope that all of our members will take a moment, review the various ministries and volunteer needs that are a part of our life at FPC, and then share how they would most like to engage in our community during the coming year. I would like to be a place where all can participate in meaningful, life-giving activities that build the kingdom of God and bear witness to God's presence in our world, and where all those contributions are valued and celebrated.

It takes a lot to be about the work of building - and we all are needed, each and every one!

Grace & peace,

Pastor Heather



Souper Bowl of Caring

More than 28 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring was started by a single youth group, in an effort to combat hunger in their community. In the past 28 years, over \$135 million has been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Through this program, youth groups around the nation collect food, raise money and volunteer for charities that help fight hunger and are part of a movement to share God's love with those in need.

This Souper Bowl Sunday (February 4) our youth will be in the Narthex with soup pots decorated in the colors of the two teams who will be competing in the Super Bowl. We ask that you deposit any amount you'd like to give into the soup pot of your favorite team and on February 11th, we will announce which team really "won" the Superbowl here at First Pres. All of this year's donations from the Souper Bowl of Caring will be given to support SEMP, our Sunday Evening Meals Program.

Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast

On Sunday, February 11th, our youth will be sponsoring our annual Mardi Gras Pancake breakfast and we hope you will join us! Our menu will include pancakes (of course), bacon, fruit, lil smokies, juice, milk and chocolate milk and a "chocolate fountain" for dipping your dessert! Our youth are sponsoring this breakfast, which begins right after church on the 11th in Fellowship Hall. We will be taking a freewill donation to help pay for our summer trips to the Crow Native American Reservation in Montana, "Great Escape" Junior High Christian Conference trip and our localized "Middle School Mission Week" this summer. Please bring your friends and families and enjoy pancakes with us!

Ash Wednesday Worship

Join us on Wednesday, February 14th at 6:30pm in the Gathering Space as we prepare for the 40 day journey of Lent. Through scripture, music, and interactive worship experiences, we will "turn around" from the distractions of daily noise and focus our attention on listening in a deeper way. Writer Parker Palmer suggests that we must listen "to what our life is telling us," in other words, to listen to the deep wisdom God has given to us and to connect to God's purpose once again. Come, open your hearts, and listen for God's voice calling to you.

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Lent @ FPC

Listen

Have you ever misplaced your phone, which is on vibrate of course, and then asked someone to call it? We get really still and really quiet. Our ears perk up in order to be ready to hear that little buzz. It is a state of both quieting down and high alert all at the same time. During Lent we will listen for that 'still, small voice' of God. Listening through prayer, through music, and through meditation on scripture are all ancient Lenten practices that open us to God's presence among and within us. Come and rest, come and listen.



February 18: 1 Kings 19:11-12

Listening Spaces

Sometimes we just need to get away in order to hear from that 'still small voice' within. Elijah hides in a cave and discovers this quiet voice is an attribute of God, even though he expected to experience God in wind and earthquake and fire. Where is your "cave?" What place (park, path, chair, shoreline) or practice (walking, journaling, reading, creating) help you get quiet enough for long enough so you can hear past the chaos and into the depths of your life?

February 25: Romans 8:26-30

Listening to our Bodies

From the beginning, the Bible connects the pneuma, or breath, of God with our own. God blew breath into us at creation and we continue to breathe all of creation in and out of our bodies constantly. How might the practice of paying attention to our breath, and our bodies, be, in and of itself, a prayer of connection to God?

March 4: Proverbs 1:20-13

Listening to the Texts

The life of faith within Christianity invites us to love knowledge, especially the self-knowledge that comes from examining ourselves in relationship to God's word found in scripture. Lectio divina is an ancient tradition of mixing the reading of scripture with prayer and meditation. Rather than an analytical approach or learning about scripture, it is way to simply be present with the words and the question, "How does this speak to my life?" What will we hear when we let go of what the Bible is 'supposed' to mean and simply let God's Wisdom in the moment speak to us?

One Great Hour of Sharing For Children and Families

Isaiah 58 describes a new kind of fast, not to give up bread but to share it. Isaiah calls us to “share bread with the hungry” and to “invite the homeless poor into our homes.” We are called to offer help to those in need and restoration to those who have been broken down. One way we answer this call is through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

We will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm and Easter Sundays, March 25 and April 1. Throughout Lent, the children and youth of the church will have the opportunity to contribute coins through their fish banks, and adults will learn more of the offering’s impact in worship and mailings. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

“Walk With Jesus”



An Easter Event For Our Entire Congregation

This Lenten season, our CE Board is presenting a “Walk With Jesus” as a part of our Lenten offerings here at the church. This is a very special outreach event designed for people of all ages to come together and experience the different elements of the Easter story. During this event, participants will go to Jerusalem for Palm Sunday, sit down together at the Last Supper, discover the sacrifice through Good Friday and celebrate the resurrection of Christ through the empty tomb that first Easter morning. We are getting so excited to offer this event and are planning it to be both fun and meaningful to bring friends and family with you. Please mark your calendar for BOTH Sunday, March 18 and Sunday, March 25 (Palm Sunday) and plan to be here during the 9:00 hour and come and “Walk With Jesus.”

Lenten Small Groups

Listen: Hearing That Still Small

Voice and Finding Your Own



Get ready to join all your friends at First Presbyterian as we journey together through Lent in small groups. This year’s study, Listen, explores how the voice of God speaks to us, what we can do to strengthen the connection, and ways we can discern the Spirit’s “voice” amidst the static. Each small group will use a video resource, alongside a weekly Biblical passage, and guided discussion questions. You will notice that the weekly study echoes the theme of our Lenten worship, and each week small group members will have an opportunity to discuss and unpack the scripture passage heard in worship and presented in the sermon.

Participation in a small group is a great way to connect with other FPC members and friends and dive deep into the place of faith in our lives. Groups will be available at different times, as well as Sunday mornings. Group size will be limited to 10. Sign ups are available now in the Gathering Space, and the study will start on the first Sunday of Lent, February 18th. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more, contact Pastor Heather at heather@fpccr.org.

Festival of Purim on February 25th

On Sunday, February 25th, immediately following worship (during coffee fellowship time) in Fellowship Hall, our children and youth will be putting on a special presentation; our own “Festival of Purim.” We hope you will mark your calendar and join us for worship and coffee fellowship that day as we showcase what we’ve been learning about Esther. Come and join us, sample some of the “traditional food” eaten at Purim, experience a mini-parade for Purim, see how this tradition is celebrated in the Jewish faith and learn a little about Esther. We can’t wait to see you!

Brass, Woodwind, String, and Percussion Players Needed!

The First Presbyterian band will be up and running again this spring!

Are you or were you ever a middle school, high school, college, or adult band member? Looking for a great opportunity to dust off your instrument and use your talents to worship? If so, please join your fellow musicians as part of the First Presbyterian Church Concert Band! All ages and ability levels are welcome and encouraged to play.

We will rehearse twice in preparation for a performance during the March 4 worship service.

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|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| • Rehearsal | Wednesday, February 28 | 6 – 7 pm | Choir Room |
| • Rehearsal | Sunday, March 4 | 9:15 – 10:00 am | Sanctuary |
| • Performance | Sunday, March 4 | 10:15 am | Sanctuary |

Just bring your instrument and any necessary supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc.). We'll provide the music and music stands. Please sign up in the gathering space or email Mike Davies at davies.mike@mchsi.com on or before February 25 so we know how many musicians to expect.

Calling all String Players!

We are planning on putting together a chamber strings ensemble to play in early March. If you are interested, please contact Fred or Heidi Kiser. The music will be accessible to everyone getting their violin out for the first time in ___ years as well as our younger string players.



Special Music

As the organ makes its way down the road for repair and refurbishment, February is full of special music!

Feb 4 - Chip Reed Quartet

Feb 11 - Handbell Choir

Feb 18 - Coe College Concert Choir

Feb 25 - Children's Choir with Chancel Choir

Children Singing in Worship

On Sunday, February 25th, our children will be singing in worship; right before the Children's Message. We will be practicing throughout the month of February, during Sunday School time, to prepare for singing in church. Please mark your calendars and plan to be here to support our children in worship!

Organ Transplant

In February the work on the organ project will become visible to all as The Reuter Organ Company comes back to the church to carefully remove the pipework and windchests for restoration. During the week of February 12 the organ will be removed and loaded onto a truck for its journey to the Reuter workshop in Lawrence, KS. Sunday, February 11, will be the last worship service with the organ until it returns restored and refreshed. Work on the new console will also start in February, also at the Reuter workshop.

SESSION NOTES

January 16, 2018 • 7:00 PM

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion made by Property Committee (no second needed) and approved: To agree in principle to a project to remove the pastor's bathroom and Laura Walker Parlor kitchen and replace them with a storage closet and coffee area, with Session to be advised of and approve final costs prior to beginning the project.

Review of 2018 budget and presentation to congregation: Bob Schley reports we are still about \$25,000 short of our budgeted pledges, so the budget remains open pending a final stewardship appeal being sent this week congregation-wide. Lynda Barrow reports the Stewardship Committee is calling people who have pledged in the past but not yet done so for 2018. A long discussion ensued with questions and ideas for closing the funding gap this year and for next year's stewardship campaign.

Motion made by the Finance Committee (no second needed) and approved: To accept the completed lease agreement with Family Promise, in which they met all the concerns and conditions brought up in Session's December meeting. Bob Schley, Kim Lanegran, Tom Lackner and Priscilla Polehna made up the committee that worked with Family Promise on the agreement.

Assigned money counters and Session devotions for 2018: Heather distributed signup sheets for both duties. Janice McNally asked (seconded by several others) if the office could please send a reminder about money counting duties with each new month.

Discussed Youngers Community Days coupon books fundraiser: This would be a February sale of Younger's coupon books to be used during their March Community Days. After a short discussion the idea was turned down for lack of complete information, with a suggestion to come back next year with a more thorough proposal.

Approved communion dates for first half of 2018: Following the practice of offering communion of the first Sunday of each month, the dates will be Feb. 4, March 4, April 8, May 6, and June 3, and Maundy Thursday, March 29. April 8 will be an exception, since April 1 is Easter Sunday. We plan to pass trays in February and May, which led to a long discussion of the congregation's history with methods of serving communion. There was a clear sense of the Session that they would like to see a more even division between intinction and passing trays.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

(* = Printed Minutes/Report on File)

Pastor Heather asked each committee chair to summarize the general work of their committee in 2018. In addition, each chair offered reports summarized below, after which Heather distributed cards for Session members to write their top three choices for committee service in 2018; from this information she will make committee assignments in time for the next Session meeting.

- **Worship & Music** (Laura Behrens and Bob Mollman): The committee's work this year has been dominated by the coming renovation of the organ.
- **Christian Education*** (Diana Richardson): CE Board is looking for lots of people to participate in the coming Trivia Night fundraiser for youth mission trips. She also noted recent discussions about physical conditions in the Sunday school rooms, especially restroom plumbing that is not working.
- **Stewardship*** (Lynda Barrow): Continuing work on final pledges for 2018. The committee is always eager to welcome new members.
- **Finance Committee*** (Bob Schley): We ended 2017 about \$11,000 in debt, twice what had been projected. The sum will be borrowed from activity funds and repaid in 2018. Bob attributes the shortfall to unexpected HVAC repairs on the 12-year-old system on the sanctuary side of the building, and significant staff overtime hours. The loan for the construction project and organ renovation is not completed; a delay by the architect has delayed the appraisal required for the loan.
- **Endowment Committee** (Marty Brown): Marty asked for more members for the committee; Charlie Rohde volunteered.
- **Fellowship** (Priscilla Polehna, Sue Goettel): Work continues on "Dinners for 8," with one group commencing in January, and potentially a second group forming. The Creative Hands workshops have been successful. The committee also plans for Brucemorchestra, a summer picnic/worship, and other events to be determined throughout the year.
- **Media** (Mike Miller): The committee has only three members and does not meet often. It oversees twice-monthly ads in The Gazette, as well as the church web site. Mike noted a spike in page visits at Easter and at Advent, with some during summer as well.

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- Membership (Janice McNally): The committee may be changing its processes for visitors and prospective members. There followed a discussion about acting on the “time and talent” survey in the new member materials by recruiting new members for committees immediately after they join. Sue Goettel mentioned she would particularly welcome them on the Fellowship Committee.
- Mission* (Kim Lanegran): Kim said she will be changing committees for 2018, but will continue to coordinate the volunteer roster for SEMP. Some current Mission Committee commitments are expiring giving the committee the opportunity to take on new partners in 2018.
- Nominating (Marty Brown): It has been a particularly difficult year for the Nominating Committee, with one vacancy on the Board of Deacons still remaining. Pastor Heather noted that traditional standing committees with three-year terms may not be the most effective approach for our times.
- Property* (Tom Lackner): (See action items above.)
- Deacons (Heather Hayes): Deacons are reorganizing their visitation lists to include members who are not necessarily homebound, but would benefit from the visit, and making plans for an extended table for communion in February. Priscilla Polehna asked who on Deacons would be the contact for the American Cancer Society’s Daffodil Days sales thru Gems of Hope. Heather suggested Pam Reynolds.

PASTOR’S REPORT:

Pastor Heather discussed our Christmas Eve services and that they were attended by some street people. Priscilla Polehna observed that we are good at welcoming people in worship, but not in fellowship, and that perhaps an “ambassador” can be stationed with the pastor during greetings after the service, to guide visitors to fellowship and make them at home

Heather discussed the draft of a new ministry brochure to replace the “time and talents” survey now in use and asked Session members to review and feed back. She is also recruiting leaders for Lenten small group studies. Leaders can choose from among three courses of study, two formatted as DVD+discussion, the third as a book and discussion guide.

Training for new elders and deacons is planned for February. Tentative date for installation is February 3. Heather plans to be away February 11, with Coe Chaplain Melia White standing in.

Kim Lanegran asked is there is any send-off party planned for Allen and Ellen Fisher as they prepare to move to Baltimore. Kim will pursue options and report.

Heather asked for permission to moderate both the congregational and corporate portions of the annual meeting. Motion was made, seconded and passed agreeing to the request. Corporation officers to be elected at the annual meeting will be Bob Schley, President; Diana Richardson, Vice President; Joan Riley, Treasurer; Betsy Caszatt, Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm with prayer by Pastor Hayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Behrens, Clerk of Session Pro Tempore

CROP Hunger Walk: Wrap-up & Next Steps

Thank you to everyone who supported the CROP Hunger Walk last October! Funds have continued to trickle in, and the total raised is now \$20,836, with \$2,250 of that from our congregation. Thank you for walking and giving!

Hunger and food insecurity continue here, with heavy usage of the Linn Community Food Bank and our Sunday Evening Meal Program. Twenty-five percent of walk funds feed the hungry in Linn County. In September, the United Nations reported an increase in world hunger for the first time following a decade of decline. There were 38 million more hungry people than a year earlier, with climate change and violent conflict as main causes. Church World Service reported there were now more refugees and displaced people in the world than at any previous time, even after World War II.

Seventy-five percent of the funds raised by the walk go to Church World Service and support their efforts to help farmers transition to drought-resistant crops, and to improve water harvesting and storage techniques as a hedge against increasing droughts. The money also supports their work with refugee populations, helping to increase access to healthcare and job skills.

Please put the 2018, October 14th CROP Walk date on your calendar, and contact Pastor Heather, to volunteer as our congregation’s representative on the walk planning committee.



Ready ... Set ... Trivia! Get Your Team Together!

On Saturday evening, February 17th, our youth will once again put on our “Trivia Night and Silent Auction.” We hope that congregation members of all ages will come on out, get a team together or register as a couple or individual, and play Trivia with us. This event is sponsored by our youth, as a fundraiser for our summer trips. The Trivia, however, is specifically geared at people from all different eras and past questions have included everything from Star Wars, to music from the 1960’s, to famous people, to movies to a final round question (last year) about the Chicago Cubs. It will be a really fun night for everyone and teams can bring their own food and drinks to share at their tables. Teams are made up of 8 players and registration forms can be found on the church website (www.fpccr.org) under “learn – children and youth – forms – trivia night.” Our Silent Auction is already shaping up and we will have tickets, passes for local events, and some really great gift baskets, so please come ready to bid on some great items. Our doors open at 6:30 pm on February 17th and Trivia starts promptly at 7:00 pm.

Camp Sunday at First Presbyterian

On Sunday, February 18th, Kevin Cullum, the Executive Director of our local Presbyterian camp, Camp Wyoming, will be here for “Camp Sunday” at First Presbyterian. Kevin will be in the Gathering Space during the Sunday School hour to answer questions and talk about the Camp Wyoming experience, and he will also be speaking in church that Sunday. Please stop by and say hello to Kevin, and pick up a Camp Wyoming brochure that day!

“Expedition Norway” Vacation Bible School!

We are already preparing for this coming summer’s Vacation Bible School; “Expedition Norway!” We hope families will “save the dates” of July 16-20th. Much like last year, we will “kick-off” Vacation Bible School with a special family celebration on the evening of Monday the 16th, and then the VBS program will run Tuesday-Friday from 9-noon.

If you have items that are from Norway, or “winter” type items that you’d like to loan us or donate, please email Heather Rey at heatherrey@fpccr.org. This VBS has a very “Frozen-esque” type theme so we are looking for fun wintry decorations, as well as items from Norway.

If you’d like to be a part of the planning team for this year’s VBS, please email Heather Rey.



Youth Schedule

Attention all 6th-12th graders

Join us each Wednesday night in February and March!

- February 11 Mardi Gras Breakfast At Church – 9:00-noon
(Please turn in all Silent Auction items by this date)
- February 14 Attend Ash Wednesday Service Together
- February 17 Youth Sponsored Trivia Night and Silent Auction – 6:30 pm
- February 21 Game Night – 6-8 pm
- February 28 \$10 Prom Night – 6-8 pm
- March 7 Youth Night at Air FX – 6-8 pm



**INTERFAITH ALLIANCE
OF IOWA**
PROTECTING FAITH AND FREEDOM

Theology as Advocacy on Death Row: The Story of Kelly Gissendaner

FEBRUARY 2, 2018 • 11:45 am – 1:00 pm
\$10 per person (payable at the door) — includes lunch

Jennifer McBride is a theology professor and was a close friend of Kelly Gissendaner, the only woman on Georgia's death row, until Kelly's execution on September 30, 2015. As a leading activist in the international #kellyonmymind campaign, McBride tells the story of advocacy for Kelly and discusses the vital role of public theology in the campaign. As McBride's teaching and research focuses on the interaction of scholars and practitioners, this program promises to be at the INTERSECTION of intellect and action.

Intersections reservations due by Tuesday, January 30 for the program on February 2nd from 11:45 am – 1:00 pm. Cost of \$10 per person (payable at the door) — includes lunch. Please email crintersections@interfaithallianceio-wa.org or call 319.364.6148. If you make a reservation and are unable to attend, payment for your reservation is appreciated if you do not cancel by the Tuesday deadline.

Our Earth

"The Earth Is What We All Have in Common:"

Wendell Berry, Naturalist

Does the environment need saving, or are we just going through normal inevitable cycles which will allow human habitation to prosper for centuries to come? Should we focus on local, short term concerns? What is needed now? Does being a Christian make a difference?

2/4/18

What About Me? What Can One Individual Do?

Rich Patterson:

Cedar Rapids Nature Center Director, now retired.

Patterson has strong feelings about the value of natural beauty in the Cedar Rapids area. He believes that we should act to save our heritage and would like to convince us to join him.



OUR LIVES ADULT EDUCATION: Our Lives will meet Sunday at 9am in the Parents' Lounge. DeEtta Andersen leads the small group in informal conversations on what is happening in our lives with our families, jobs, friends, and neighbors. We will discuss our purpose in dealing with our responsibilities and opportunities. What guidance can our faith and God have on how we live, what we should and can accomplish in Our Lives?

The Inter-Religious Council of Linn County presents a moderated discussion with representatives from various faith traditions.

February 12 • Hinduism, Humanitarianism, Islam
March 12 • Judaism, Native American, Unitarian Universalist

Downtown Library, Beems Auditorium
6:30-7:45 p.m

Rotation Sunday School – January and February

During the month of January, our preschoolers and elementary school children have been part of a Sunday School unit entitled “Recognizing the Messiah” and have been specifically studying the stories of the Transfiguration, the woman at the well, and the story of Lazarus. A big thank you to Dan Ottemoeller for teaching the drama station and shooting video footage of our children re-enacting the Lazarus story, to Alisa Shields for teaching the science station and helping us “raise Lazarus” (the balloon Lazarus) from the grave (by using alka seltzer and water) and helping us with our other experiments about “living water” and to Sarah Keuseman for teaching the art station and the creation of butterflies as we talk about new life in Christ.

During the month of February, our preschoolers, children and youth will all be studying the story of Esther from the Bible, and learning about Purim; the Jewish holiday that commemorates the story of Esther saving her people. During Sunday School on February 5, 11, 18 and 25th, our children and youth will be preparing for a special presentation that will take place during coffee fellowship, immediately after worship on February 25th.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Upon learning of the shortfall in needed pledges at the beginning of January, the congregation has responded with great generosity and faithfulness. As of the publishing of the February newsletter, we are well on our way to fully funding our programming needs, supporting our staff, and continuing our strong commitment to mission giving in our community and abroad. THANK YOU! The 2018 budget will be finalized by the Session in February. You can always find a copy of the budget and financial updates on the bulletin board outside the parlor.

Family Promise Resumes Operation

January marked the hiring of John Paul Derryberry to the position of Executive Director of Family Promise of Linn County. In the coming weeks there will be training by the national offices for staff, board and volunteer coordinators. In January also, the Session of First Presbyterian voted to enter into a contract with Family Promise to lease space in a portion of our downstairs for office and day center, so spaces are being cleaned and freshened up in anticipation of families being welcomed. If you stop by during the week, feel free to drop in and say “hi” to John. His office is in the basement next to Eric’s office.

People @ Work

Check out the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall and add your mark to the many different ways in which we are building God's kingdom here at First Presbyterian. Each time you volunteer your time and talent at FPC, make sure and fill out a brick for our bulletin board display. Help out in the office? Usher on a Sunday morning? Participate in a committee meeting? Bake treats at home for Sunday fellowship? All of those activities count towards the growth and vitality of our congregation. Put your name, activity and hours on a brick, and post them on the board. Let's see how quickly our board fills with all the many hands that make our ministry at FPC possible.

Ministry Brochures

Make sure and fill out the time & talent ministry brochure located in the pews and in Fellowship Hall. Get connected with the ways you would like to best use your interests and skills in the life and ministry of First Presbyterian. It takes all of us together working to make First Presbyterian a place where the light of Christ shines bright for all. Just drop off the filled out brochures in the baskets in the Gathering Space and Fellowship Hall.



Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group will meet on Monday, February 19, 6:30 p.m., in the residence of Lois Willhoite, 1650 Koehler Drive NW, Apt 241, 393-5857.

The book for discussion is *The Penguin Lessons* by Tom Michell. Subtitled "What I Learned From a Remarkable Bird," this book is the real-life story of the extraordinary bond between a young teacher and a penguin. All First Pres men and women are invited to join in the discussion. Our selection for March is *Uncommon Type* by Tom Hanks.

Food Group

The Food Group will meet on Thursday, February 22nd, at Cibo's Restaurant, which is located at 685 Marion Blvd, in Marion. Everyone is welcome! If you'd like to attend, please RSVP to Janelle Parks by Monday, February 19th. You can contact her either by email at lpsplinter@gmail.com or by phone at 319-310-4759.

Seeking Cantata Singers

Rehearsals are starting for the Easter Cantata at 7 pm on Wednesday nights. The Chancel Choir performs "A Little Jazz Mass" by Bob Chilcott as a Lenten cantata/work on March 11. Contact Dr. Fred Kiser to join in this joyous jazz rendition of the Latin mass.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1 George Humphrey
- 2/1 Jonah Thompson
- 2/2 Irene Hamous
- 2/2 Dave Brenneman
- 2/3 Dick Harman
- 2/5 Sarah Keuseman
- 2/5 Rachel Nelson
- 2/6 Larry Simon
- 2/6 Ben Wilding
- 2/7 Harold Brown
- 2/7 Sheryl Smiley
- 2/7 Todd Kiser
- 2/8 Alison Mollman
- 2/8 Audrey Bradford
- 2/8 Barbara McNally
- 2/10 Calum Mollman
- 2/10 Elizabeth Lederer
- 2/10 Cynthia Burdakin
- 2/11 Jim Klinger
- 2/11 Sue Latham
- 2/11 Alec Stein
- 2/12 Joe McKinstry
- 2/12 Milton Westphalen
- 2/12 Grant Cornish
- 2/12 Ian Fischer
- 2/12 Phil Thompson
- 2/13 John von Lackum
- 2/15 Brian Courtright
- 2/15 Steve Kossayan
- 2/16 Sonya Astor
- 2/16 John Huey
- 2/17 Stephanie Wagor
- 2/17 Kaiden Adolph
- 2/19 Crete Bobenhouse
- 2/19 Jim Powers
- 2/20 Joseph Kettelkamp
- 2/20 Carol Wickey
- 2/23 Annette Zimmerman
- 2/24 Sara Sorensen
- 2/27 Mackenzie Hayes
- 2/28 Gloria Klinger
- 2/29 Martha Wilding

Need a place to celebrate with your valentine?

First Presbyterian has a wealth of musical talent in our midst with Laura Behrens, Bob & Sue Mollman and Bill Ryder singing in Chorale Midwest and Randy Reynolds as part of the Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale. Their February shows would be a great place to hear beautiful music together and you could contact any one of them for tickets.



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2/9 David & Carolyn Horton
- 2/11 Jim & Darlene Arthurs
- 2/22 Bob & Ruth Arnold
- 2/26 Darryl & Karla Button

February Calendar

Thu Feb 1

12:45pm Serendipity Book Club

Fri Feb 2

9:00am KIVA - 32nd St NE Hy Vee
11:45am INTERSECTIONS

Sat Feb 3

7:00am Elder and Deacon training -
Riley's
1:00pm Food Bank Delivery from St.
Mark's/Fareway Super Bowl

Sun Feb 4

Fill the Cart for Food Bank
Souper Bowl of Caring
9:00am Sunday School for all ages
9:00am INSIGHT Adult Education
10:15am Worship Service- Ordination
and Installation of Officers
1:00pm Food Bank Delivery from St.
Mark's/Fareway Super Bowl
2:30pm SEMP Prep
3:30pm SEMP Servers
4:30pm SEMP

Mon Feb 5

9:30am Witwer Bridge

Tue Feb 6

12:00pm AA
6:00pm Mission Committee
6:00pm Youth Committee
7:00pm Christian Education Board

Wed Feb 7

9:00am Foster Care Review Board
6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm Combined Youth Groups and
Supper
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thu Feb 8

9:00am Foster Care Review Board

Fri Feb 9

9:00am KIVA - 32nd St NE Hy Vee

Sun Feb 11

9:00am Sunday School for all ages
9:00am INSIGHT Adult Education
10:15am Worship Service

11:15am Mardi Gras Breakfast
2:30pm SEMP Prep
3:30pm SEMP Servers
4:30pm SEMP

Mon Feb 12

9:30am Witwer Bridge

Tue Feb 13

12:00pm AA
5:30pm Deacons

Wed Feb 14

6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm Combined Youth Groups and
Supper
6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Fri Feb 16

9:00am KIVA - 32nd St NE Hy Vee
10:00am ORKIN

Sat Feb 17

6:30pm Trivia Night Fund-raiser -
Gathering Space, Fellowship
Hall

Sun Feb 18

9:00am Sunday School for all ages
9:00am INSIGHT Adult Education
10:15am Worship Service
2:30pm SEMP Prep
3:30pm SEMP Servers
4:30pm SEMP

Mon Feb 19

8:00am Girl Scout Cookie Distribution
- Fellowship Hall
9:30am Witwer Bridge
6:30pm Book Group - Member's home

Tue Feb 20

9:00am Optimist Oratorical Competi-
tion
12:00pm AA
6:00pm Fellowship Committee
6:00pm Stewardship Committee
7:00pm Session w/ Safety Training

Wed Feb 21

9:00am Foster Care Review Board
6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm Combined Youth Groups and
Supper

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thu Feb 22

6:00pm Food Group

Fri Feb 23

9:00am KIVA - 32nd St NE Hy Vee

Sun Feb 25

9:00am Sunday School for all ages
9:00am INSIGHT Adult Education
10:15am Worship Service
11:15am Festival of Purim
2:30pm SEMP Prep (Sous Chef) -
Kitchen
3:30pm SEMP Servers
4:30pm SEMP
Mon Feb 26
9:30am Witwer Bridge

Tue Feb 27

9:00am Optimist Oratorical Competi-
tion
12:00pm AA
6:30pm Worship & Music Committee

Wed Feb 28

6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm Combined Youth Groups and
Supper
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal -
Choir Room

Fellowship Hosts

Feb 4 Ron & Sue Olson
Brent & Julie Hagerman
Feb 11 Mardi Gras Breakfast
Feb 18 Rosie Strang
Moe & Sarah Richardson
Feb 25 Kissy Heins
Matt & Deb Hoy

First Presbyterian Church
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Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

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