

FEBRUARY 2018

The Season of Lent Begins February 14, 2018!

From the Pastor's Study—GO OUT OF YOUR WAY FOR LENT!

Dear Children of God,

Each year during the Season of Lent we come to a time in our Christian journey of paying attention. The 40 days of Lent are a time of preparing our hearts to once again get ready for Easter Morning. There are many ways to do this. It is my hope that you will make a concerted effort to go out of your way for Lent this year.

Go out of your way and come to the Ash Wednesday service on February 14th. You might decide to spend the season of Lent reading through the Psalms. If you read three to four Psalms a day you can read all 150 by Easter Morning. Or you could choose to read one Psalm a day in the morning and then reflect on it during the day. You could choose to read your way through one of the Gospels during Lent: Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. Go to <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs> to learn more about the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, and then decide what you are able to give this year. There are many traditions for giving something up for Lent. You may choose to give something up that is taking too much time away from God, your family or yourself. Or you may choose not to give something up, but to give something during Lent, going out of your way and giving the gift of time with God to yourself. You might also consider giving the gift of time to someone else ... through visits, by taking your children to some of our homebound members so they can share a visit together, by checking with one of our local missions to see if they need an extra helping hand, or you might call someone you know who is lonely and

invite yourself over for a visit or invite them out to lunch. You can also read on the next page about a retreat opportunity in March for a day away in silence.

It is awfully easy to get stuck in ruts....Lent is the season for getting unstuck for God and God’s people! If you are looking for other ideas I’d be glad to help you explore ways that you can GO OUT OF YOUR WAY FOR LENT!

With you on the journey, Pastor Becky

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 7:00 P.M.

Join us Wednesday, February 14th as we begin the season of Lent. Join us for a contemplative service of worship, the Lord’s Supper, and the “imposition of ashes,” for those who so choose. The “imposition of ashes” is done with the ashes from the burning of last year’s palms from Palm Sunday. They are used to mark the sign of the cross on our foreheads with the words: “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” This is our reminder that God is in control and we are in constant need of Christ in our lives.

Come begin the Season of Lent with your Family of Faith.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES--“THE VOICE OF GOD”

Beginning February 18th we will hear God speaking with the women and men who surrounded Jesus during Holy Week. Come reflect on your own Lenten journey as you listen to the voices of those who were part of Jesus’ journey on earth.

Feb. 18th--Judas, The Betrayer

Feb. 25th--Peter’s Long Night

Mar. 4th--Pilate, The Busy Bureaucrat

Mar. 11th--Barabbas, The Murderer

Mar. 18th--The Thief on the Cross

March 25th--Palm/Passion Sunday--The Centurion’s Fears

March 29th--Maundy Thursday--Mary, The Mother of Jesus

Avoid close contact with sick people.

If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you **Stay Home** for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.

See your doctor immediately if you think you have the flu. Anti-viral medications may be prescribed, which can make illness milder and shorten the time you are sick. They may also prevent serious flu complications. Studies show that flu antiviral drugs work best for treatment when they are started within 2 days of getting sick, but starting them later can still be helpful, especially if the sick person has a high-risk health condition or is very sick from the flu. Follow your doctor’s instructions for taking this drug.

Laura Brown, RN
Parish Nurse

***Healthy Eats Sunday is February 11th!
Will you be able to find the 50 Ways to Be More Healthy?***

Parish Nurse Sundays for February: 4, 11, 18, 25.



My Parish Nurse is in the Choir now. Is she still accessible to consult with? Yes, she is! Laura is available to you on choir Sundays from 8:45 to 9:25 when the choir warms up, and then after worship. On Bell Sundays, Laura will be available before worship (8:45-9:55) and after Worship. Don’t forget that Laura is available “on-call” during the week. You can call her at 309-314-5605.

PARISH NURSE NEWS

The Flu: Symptoms and Prevention

In the fall and winter of 1918, children skipped rope to the rhyme "I had a little bird, its name was Enza. I opened the window and in-flu-enza." The influenza epidemic claimed victims from almost every family.

Times have changed. With the accessibility of vaccines and preventive measures such as hand washing, we will never see the devastation that the Flu of 1918 brought.

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) website states: Influenza (also known as the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by flu viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The flu is different from a cold. The flu usually comes on suddenly. People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills (not everyone will have a fever)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)

Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

While most people who get influenza will recover in a few days to less than two weeks, some will develop complications (such as pneumonia) as a result of the flu, which may be life-threatening and result in death for some people, especially if they are considered high risk. This includes people 65 years and older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), pregnant women, and young children.

Prevention is your best defense against the flu!

Vaccination: The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone over the age of 6 months (caregivers of children under the age of 6 months should get the flu vaccine), which protects against several different strains of flu viruses. The optimal time to receive the flu vaccine is before the end of October. While some may still contract the flu, having the vaccine may limit the severity of the virus. **Other Preventive Measures include:**

AN INVITATION TO A RETREAT AND SILENCE--A LENTEN PRACTICE



Through the years you have heard me talk about spending time in Silence as one of my spiritual practices. I would like to invite you to try being in silence during a one day retreat. If it feels like life is always just too busy to make room for God, this is a way to clear out time to be with God, to hear yourself think, to spend time in nature and to have the luxury of time to listen and talk with God.

COME TO A ONE-DAY RETREAT, TUESDAY MARCH 20,

9:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M., DEPART AT 8:15 A.M, COST \$20.00

“COME TO THE QUIET: CULTIVATING A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE”

OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE RETREAT, WHEATLAND, IOWA.

From the brochure: “In our over-busy world taking time to cultivate a commit to Sacred Moments seems challenging. Yet, a simple act of claiming a space and time, daily for the Divine Presence to bring a centered peace to our daily living.” Facilitated by Pat Shea.

I have attended one of these “Come to the Quiet” Days and would like to share them with you. The day begins with a short 30 minute presentation. You then have 2 hours, in silence to walk the grounds, walk the Labyrinth, work on your own crafts or writing in a private room or in the main room, take a much needed nap, read your Bible or a book, or however you decide to spend time with God. It is up to you to create how you will be in silence with God during these two hours. We then meet for conversation at a “farm-to-table” lunch around round tables with the other participants. Then you have another 2 hours in silence after lunch. Then the group gathers together for the closing when people can share, if they wish, the ways they have encountered God that day. There is no pressure to speak.

This “Come to the Quiet “ Day is coordinated by Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat and **you will need to register with them. I encourage you to do this soon** as the days do fill up. Once you are registered please sign up on Mission Central so I know if we need to carpool. I have room in my car for three others. If needed we’ll carpool. You can register online or by calling 563-336-8414, you will need to pay the \$20 fee at the time of registration. If you would like to attend this event and need help with the cost please talk to me. To

register online, go to <http://www.chmiowa.org/retreat>. From the pulldown menu choose retreat, retreat calendar, March 20th Come to the Quiet, view details, register online for this event, and then follow the rest of the prompts. Again, I encourage you to register now if you are interested because there is only room for 12-15 participants.

I have found time in silence to be one of the most important parts of my journey of faith. It truly helps to leave our normal routines and our homes and offices and get away to be with God. If you have questions about this retreat please give me a call. I look forward to some of you joining me for this time in silence...bookended by lots of good conversation in the car and at lunch!

Pastor Becky

KAROL’S OFFICE HOURS HAVE CHANGED!

**AS OF JANUARY 29, 2018,
KAROL’S OFFICE HOURS WILL BE
10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.
MONDAY—FRIDAY**



**THE 2018 CHURCH DIRECTORY
WILL BE OUT SOON!**

In the coming weeks, please come to the table by the doughnuts, and pick up your new 2018 Church Directory.



**2ND FRIDAYS AT THE MOVIES
Fun, Food, Fellowship...And A Movie!
FRI. FEBRUARY 9TH—6:30 PM—YOUTH ROOM
MOVIE: NANNY MCPHEE**



After several weighty films and documentaries we’ve decided to go to the lighter side of films:

“In this dark and witty fable, Nanny McPhee (a person of an unsettling appearance and magical powers) enters the household of the recently widowed Mr. Brown and attempts to tame his seven exceedingly ill-behaved children. The children...have managed to drive away 17 previous nannies and are certain that they will have no trouble with this one. But as Nanny McPhee takes control, they begin to notice that their vile behavior now leads swiftly and magically to rather startling consequences.” (Rotten Tomatoes)

PLEASE BRING a movie munchie to share and join the fun! *We decide on the next month’s movie at the end of the night, so bring your suggestions!*
NEED A RIDE? Call Pastor Becky



**JOIN US 2ND SATURDAYS
TO CREATE PRAYER SHAWLS!**

FEBRUARY 10TH, 9:00 TO 11:00 A.M.

FIRST-TIMERS & BEGINNERS ALWAYS WELCOME!

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I TAKE A SHAWL? #1 Please put your name and the number of shawls you’ve taken in the Prayer Shawl Book on the counter above the Shawls AND #2 Take one of the tags on the counter and attach it to the Prayer Shawl! **We would love to welcome some new people to this group**, the yarn is provided...we just need your knitting or crocheting fingers!

Presbyterian Women

Reminder--The Presbyterian Women do not meet for Bible Study in January and February, due to the cold and snow of winter! See you on March 6, 2018!



PRESBY SENIORS

Presby Seniors will meet on FEBRUARY 28TH at Noon.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month, except November
at high NOON and *WELCOME*

all who consider themselves "Seniors!"

at The Deerfield Inn Restaurant.

2215 John Deere Road, East Moline

Pastor Becky drives the church Minibus to the luncheon each month.

If you would like a ride to the Lunch

please contact the church office by Tuesday morning

before the Wednesday lunch. See YOU There!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Becky Sherwood

Karol Ellison

Laura Brown, R.N.

David Blakey

Gail Glockhoff-Long

Linda Miller

Sarah Lack

Cathy Dillon

Marty Ellison

Pastor

Church Secretary

Parish Nurse

Choir Director

Bell Choir Director

Organist

Nursery Attendant

Indoor Custodian

Outdoor Custodian

Please Keep Our Nursing Home and Homebound Members in Your Prayers

Friendship Manor: Mary Glockhoff, Marynell Kirkwood, Mary Catherine Sneed;

The Fountains: Dorothy Horton; New Perspective: Florence McCaulley; Park

Vista: Carol Brewer, Betty Hogue Personal Residences: Shirley Belanger, Kay

Etsel, Ted and June Frels, Lloyd Strohm, Bev Warren

Please remember in your prayers those who serve in the armed forces. May God bring comfort to them and their loved ones, until all are reunited in peace. Lance Corporal William (Billy) Betsworth, Bethel's grandson, is scheduled to be deployed in April 2017. Both Michael and Caleb Kassehin are in ROTC through the National Guard. Captain Kyle Curry, Minnesota Army National Guard

Please keep our college students in your prayers, that they may know God's love and guidance:

Edwige Barrigah—Quincy Univ., Ines Kassehin—Pharmacy School, Caleb Kassehin--Univ. of Iowa, Jack McNeil—DePaul University, Katey Maxwell & Lathan Reynolds—Black Hawk College. If you have a college/technical school student to add to this list please call the church office.

**Password for the current newsletter on our webpage
firstpresbyem.com:**

Username: fpc Password: messenger

SUNDAY FEB. 4TH, SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY



The Youth will be coming to you With their soup pots, collecting money for the Meal Site. Bring your change & dollars for this LOUD OFFERING on Feb. 4th!

AND NEW THIS YEAR--ALSO BRING SOMETHING FOR THE FOOD PANTRY. On February 4th we'll fill

the Food Pantry grocery basket and fill the soup pots with our money to provide meals at the Meal Site.

TWO WAYS TO FIGHT HUNGER THIS YEAR!

The funds raised assist with the Meal Site Meals!

LENTEN LUNCHEON PROVIDED BY THE OUTREACH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 18, 2018 – Right After Church

Please join us for a meal of Sage-crusted pork tenderloin with maple-Dijon sauce, baked potato, corn, tossed salad, cookies and rolls!

You don't need to bring anything except a willingness to help us make fleece blankets for children by tying a few knots after our meal. This year we wanted to GIVE BACK rather than GIVE UP something for Lent.

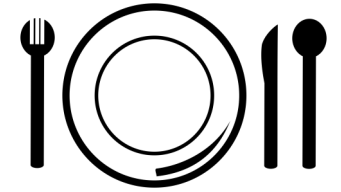


Thank you for those who donated 1 ½ yards of fleece for this new Lenten tradition. The Mission Committee will deliver these fleece blankets to Project Linus which gives "blankies" to children in our community who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need.

Outreach and Fellowship Committee

MEAL SITE MUSINGS. . .

Meal Site served approximately 25 people in the month of December. All who participated in the meal were very appreciative. The menu included ham, green beans, Watergate salad, cookies, milk, and bread. Thank you to all who donated and to those who helped serve. (In January, due to the Martin Luther King holiday, there was no meal site that night.)



WHAT IS THAT BIG BIRTHDAY CAKE BOX AND WHAT'S IT DOING IN MY CHURCH?!



Due to the overwhelming success of the Youth Group's Birthday Party Kit Mission, you now have an opportunity to become a part of this worthy mission. As you all know, for the past year the Youth Group has been shopping and putting together birthday party kits for children and adults through the Watertown Food Pantry. There is a great need for this mission and we want to continue it, however, we now need your help. Soon, there will be a big birthday cake box (thank you Karen Paytash!) near the grocery cart with the list of birthday party supplies that fill up the birthday bags. All you have to do is go to the Dollar Tree or look for these items on sale, purchase them and then bring them on in and place them in the birthday cake box. Birthday Kits include: cake mix, frosting, disposable 9x 3 cake pan, 8 matching birthday plates and cups, candles, and balloons. (The Youth will purchase the birthday bags as there is a specific type they use) Please help bring a smile and some fun to a child or adult who would otherwise be able to celebrate their birthday. Thank you!



Dear Missions Commission,
On behalf of the members of Chapter 2 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) of the Department of Iowa, please accept our gratitude for your very generous donation of \$290 as part of your support to local veterans.

Your donation will be applied locally toward the 2018 purchase of a replacement van for our Transportation Program that provides assistance to our veterans needing rides to make their treatment appointments at the VA Medical Center in Iowa City.

Without this program that you have greatly helped, many veterans would be unable to get to the Iowa City VA hospital for the care they need, since so many of them can no longer drive nor get timely transportation from friends or relatives.

So should you see the DAV van operating in the Quad Cities, know that you played a big part in it helping our veterans.

Thank you again for remembering and supporting all veterans and the DAV with your timely and greatly appreciated gift.

Sincerely, Paul W. Janecek, Adjutant

First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your contribution of \$300 to Churches United of the Quad City Area. Your contribution will help support the East Moline/Moline CareLINK program. With your contribution we will be able to continue our mission of serving our community.

Thanks again for your contribution.

Blessings,
Elizabeth Vanausdeln
Associate Director

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES!

“Continuing on the journey of faith.”

4 year olds through 12th Graders —Sunday School

8:30 A.M. *Youth Choir for 4 years through 12 Graders in the Music Room*

8:45 A.M. *4 year olds through 5th Graders*

(3 year olds are welcome if a parent is with them for the class—nursery care for younger children)

6th to 12th Graders—Youth Room—with Darlos Stroud!



ADULTS--TAKING THE TWO HOUR CHALLENGE

Give a 2nd hour to God on Sunday Mornings

Adults—Good News Bible Class by the Elevator —OR— The 2nd Floor Seekers Class with Pastor Becky in the Library

The Good News Class—Studying the Bible with the Presbyterian Church!

The 2nd Floor Seeker's Class—

CONTINUING TO LEARN ABOUT MOSES Through Feb. 11th

Beginning February 18th--Animate: Practices is a seven-session introduction to the central practices of the Christian faith.

In each session, the group will watch a video featuring a leading voice from the Christian faith, spend time on personal reflection and journaling, and share ideas with the group. Each person will have a journal that has room for doodling, writing, coloring with provided colored pencils and thinking in new ways about the life of faith!

Feb. 18th --Prayer | Oriented toward God | Brian McLaren

Feb. 25th--Food | Eating, with Jesus | Sara Miles

March 4th--Worship | Seeking God's Presence | Mike Slaughter

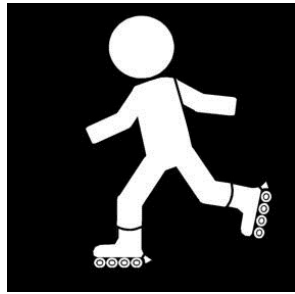
March 11th--Sacraments | A Tapestry of Traditions | Phyllis Tickle

March 18th--Money | The Joy of Sharing | Shane Claiborne

March 25th--Service | The Needs Right in Front of You | Enuma Okoro

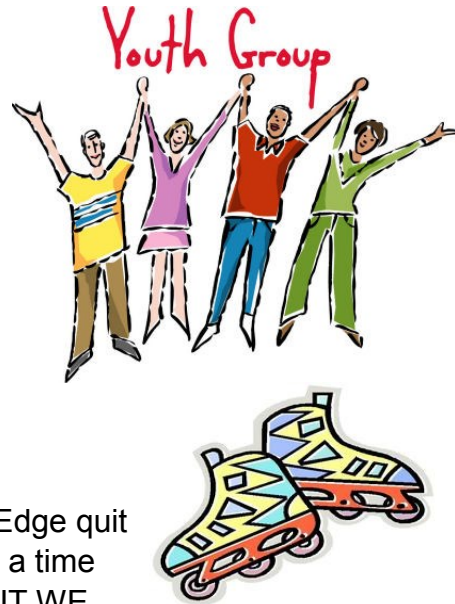
April 15th--Community | An Unexpected Family | Doug Pagitt (no class on Easter or the week after)

JOURNALS WILL BE AVAILABLE FEB. 11TH, COST: \$10.00



YOUTH GROUP & GOD'S KIDS ROLLER SKATING

**AT SKATE CITY
SUNDAY FEB. 11TH
2:00 P.M.**



Yes this supposed to be Ice Skating...but River's Edge quit Sunday Ice Skating and can't guarantee a date or a time for Saturdays...no, I don't understand it either...BUT WE WILL HAVE FUN TOGETHER ROLLER SKATING!

WHO: All children & youth and adults of the church. We definitely *need some skating adults* to help with this trip!

PLEASE NOTE: 2nd grade and younger must have a parent/guardian with them please.

WHEN: Come directly to Skate City at 2:00 p.m. We'll be done at 4:00 p.m. when your ride can pick you up. Need a ride? Talk to Pastor Becky

COST: \$6.00 entrance fee, \$3.00 skate rental. (If you need help with the cost please talk to Pastor Becky, there are funds to help and we want everyone to be there!) Please bring your own money for snacks, games, etc.

PLEASE SIGN UP BY SUNDAY FEB. 4TH on Mission Central. If you aren't skating but will be attending please sign up as well so we know who to expect!

Dear Pastor Becky Sherwood,

The Board of Directors and the entire organization of Global Partners for Africa Development would like to let you know that we have received your donation amount of \$440 and we wish to thank you for this special gift. Your recent donation that is being used to help provide clean water to people in poor communities in Togo is much appreciated. You are part of this mission and we deeply appreciate it. Please extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members of your church.

*Thank
you*

Sincerely yours, On behalf of the Board, Stephan K. Codjie

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you so much! We appreciate you every day!

Your recent In-Kind donation of wish list items (paper, envelopes, folders, etc) for GiGi's Playhouse is an amazing gesture of acceptance and generosity to help children and adults with Down syndrome achieve their *Best of All*. Your investment supports therapeutic, educational and career training programs in brick and mortar locations, which are purposely designed in the ways individuals with Down syndrome learn best. Programs are always available to our families at NO CHARGE: made possible by your commitment. Donors like you are helping more than 25,000 participants achieve and believe with confidence: the "ABCs" of GiGi's Playhouse!

GiGi's Playhouse make a lifelong commitment to all of our participants, parents and siblings: one of unwavering positive support. Individuals with Down syndrome "have" Down syndrome every day of their lives. They get no breaks and no days off, and perceptions of a Down syndrome diagnosis can challenge basic dignity and acceptance. Through contributions like yours, Gi-Gi's Playhouse can educate more people and help change inaccurate perceptions. Daily actions to foster more acceptance and opportunities will ensure that present and future generations truly succeed. You are helping us impact more children and adults around the world, and we are forever grateful for your commitment to our families. Thank you for believing, Pam Lynch, Site Coord.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CHANGE JAR DONATIONS TO PDA

During December you dropped your change in the jar for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance work with the hurricanes and fires around the country. Your generosity raised \$322.47 for those in need. Thank you for stepping into the GAP--Give, Act, Pray!

Pastor Becky and your Mission Commission

THANK YOU TO GOD'S KIDZ FOR YOUR AMAZING MISSION PROJECT!

Dear God's Kidz and your Teachers, your church is so proud of your caring for area school children with your creation of 120 FLEECE SCARVES. Your work is keeping kids warm around the IL Quad Cities. Jesus asks us to care for those in need and that's what you have done! A special thank you to Denise Maxwell who sewed the scarves so the children could cut them into the beautiful creations that went out to the schools. And thank you to Wanda White for delivering them! Pastor Becky for the Church Family .

"Thank you" to everyone that brought donations for the " Mitten Tree". We were able to supply 5 area schools with many warm garments for the children. The schools that benefited this year were Hillcrest, East Moline - Wells, East Moline - George O Barr, Silvis - Hamilton, Moline - Earl Hanson, Rock Island. This church family is the best. Wanda White

Thank you for your generous gift of scarves and mittens for our students.

Wells Staff

Thank you for the winter gear for the students at Hamilton!

We appreciate you! Sincerely, Lynsy Oswald, Assistant Principal

Getting Fleeced for Mission for Children!

On February 18th Outreach and Mission invite you to our first Lenten Mission Project & Meal as we tie fleece blankets for Project Linus to help children in area hospitals and other transitions. They need 1.5 yard of plain and kid-friendly fleece for the blankets. Blankets are two sided, so you may want to provide two 1.5 yard pieces --one can be plain and one patterned.

We will be collecting fleece through February 11th! If it is easier for you to provide the money for fleece you can make a donation and we will do the shopping. Get fleeced this winter and help area children!

Ella Layer & Laura Brown, Outreach and Fellowship Elders



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

An ongoing Grief Support Group will be meeting here at First Presbyterian Church beginning February 13, 2018. This group welcomes persons of any faith tradition who are suffering the loss of a loved one whether the loss is recent or has been awhile. In a comfortable and private atmosphere, this group will provide support, help and encouragement with short lessons and small group discussions. The goal of this group is to help individuals make sense of their loss, and to walk with each on their journey of grief.

We will meet every other week, beginning February 13, 2018, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Library. There are no fees or books to purchase for this program. There is no minimum or maximum time of attendance; come and go as your needs require.

For more information, please contact Laura Brown, who will be facilitating the Group at 309-314-5605.

Sharing in the Ministries of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A...

PER CAPITA = \$32.00

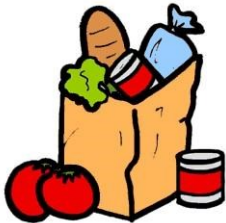
The Finance Commission invites you to give your per capita gift soon!

It's that time of year again, when your Finance Commission and your Pastor come to you to talk about per capita giving. Each year, at the beginning of the year, we pay a per capita fee for each of our members, based on the previous year's membership. This per capita giving allows for maintaining the basic operating costs of our Presbytery, the Presbytery of Great Rivers, plus the Synod of Lincoln Trails, and the offices of the General Assembly (the national church's headquarters). Per capita allows each member to share equally in the ministries of the larger church. Being connected like this is one of the gifts of being Presbyterian, we are a connectional church; we care for each other! You can put it in one of the envelopes in the pew racks and mark the outside "Per Capita". If you have questions, please talk to the Finance Commission Elders: Jim Barber & John Runburg or Pastor Becky.

A Note from the Finance Commission:

December Income	= \$ 11,295
December Expenses	= \$ 16,915
January-December Income	= \$171,828
January-December Expenses	= \$175,468

Watertown Food Pantry News



Once again, we'd like to thank you, and especially the volunteers, for the support that has been given during the first eleven months of the Churches United Watertown Ecumenical Food Pantry re-opening. It's hard to believe it's been almost a year since we opened!

We really appreciate the many cash donations and the food we find in the cart. The Mission Commission has also been very generous in helping fund the food pantry, including funds from the Bunco game. We couldn't do it without you!!

During the month of December we helped 94 families which were composed of 194 adults and 143 children. We have also helped several homeless people which is always a little unsettling with the weather becoming so cold and many others are reporting significant cuts to their food stamps. We continue to add new families daily and currently have over 340 names in our database as the need continues to grow. Everyone we serve is thankful for the help and usually says so. We have heard "God bless you" many, many times and want you to know that you are a part of this ministry whether you donate time, food, money, or prayers. It's always interesting at the food pantry. **Please consider** a donation or **volunteering** for an afternoon shift. Our open hours are Tuesdays and Fridays from 1-4 pm. We particularly need help on Friday afternoons and both shifts include stocking shelves, inventorying donations, etc.

We can use more plastic bags and other ongoing needs aside from monetary donations are: **toilet paper**, macaroni and cheese, corn bread/muffin mix, any canned **fruit** or vegetables, canned tuna/ham/chicken, boxed dinner mixes, instant mashed potatoes, cereal – almost anything to make a meal. All food items must be within their "fresh date" per Churches United regulations. We use some of the cash donations to buy fresh milk and eggs.

Again, thank you all for your support and prayers and please feel free to ask any of us questions you may have.

Until next month-
Mike & Pat Tyler

**AN IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM YOUR
MISSION COMMISSION: THREE WAYS TO HELP!
ON OUR 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH MISSION—**



The Mission Commission invites you to **#1—** bring food for the **Food Pantry**, and to **#2 —** bring aluminum pop/beverage cans to support the **Children & Youth Going to Church Camp**. Please make sure pop cans are rinsed out, and **#3 —** don't forget to take off the pop tabs (and other kinds of pull tabs too!) and bring them to support the **Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City**. Please join us in our mission!

**MEAL SITE MONDAYS
THE 3RD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH**

Our church serves the meal at Mt. Zion Baptist Church at 6:00 p.m. as part of the Churches United Meal Site Program.

**3RD SUNDAY BEVERAGE CAN
COLLECTION CONTINUES!!!
HELP OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH GO TO
SUMMER CHURCH CAMP!**

A Mission Project of the FPCEM Youth Group!

The collection of beverage cans for recycling will continue! The funds that were once raised for the First Day Fund will now help our Children & Youth go to summer Church Camp at Stronghold! So on the 3rd Sunday of Each Month just drop your bag of cans by the front walk and the youth will do the rest! (And don't forget to save those Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House ; just drop them in the House on the bookshelf in the library!)



Giving Care in the Parking Lot

As the weather gets colder, and ice and snow are added to the forecast, please pay attention to where you are parking when you come to meetings, gatherings and Sunday worship. If you are able, please park at the back of the parking lot, leaving those two front rows for those who find walking more difficult. Thank you!



SNOW CLOSINGS ON SUNDAYS —HOW DO YOU FIND OUT?



On the Sundays that are so snowy or icy that we need to cancel church there are a variety of ways to get this information. As soon as the decision is made, by 6:30 a.m. I will send out an email to the church email list. I will then contact Channels 6 and 8 which are the two that will list non-school closing information. In addition I will be at the church from 6:30 a.m. so you can also call the church. But if there is nothing in your email or on TV then assume that worship is happening, which is of course my preference :-). Becky

Mission News

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING—

“You Shall Be Called Repairers of the Breach--Isaiah 58

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

There is a OGHS giving envelope in this newsletter and you'll find them in the pews on Sunday mornings. On Sunday Feb. 18th Children will get their fish banks to collect during Lent!

