

HERE AND NOW!



March 2017
Volume 64, Issue 3



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ASH WEDNESDAY ~ MARCH 1ST

Please join us for a special worship service on Ash Wednesday, March 1st, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Prior to the service, the PresbyTeens will be hosting a Soup Supper starting at 5:30 p.m. in Ramstad Hall. All donations are appreciated and will be helping out our youth attending summer events. Everyone is welcome!

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent. The ashes are blessed and placed upon the head with the sign of the cross, or sprinkled on the forehead. The ashes serve a dual purpose. First, we are reminded of our mortality and humanity as we begin the Lenten season. Second, the ashes are a Biblical symbol of repentance, sorrow, and humility.

“By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 3:19



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STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ~ PER-CAPITA

Each year the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly assess our church a Per Capita fee for every member of the congregation. The Per Capita fees are essentially dues for the services received from these governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church.

For 2017, First Presbyterian's assessment is **\$44.00** per member, which the church pays regardless of how much is collected. Please take **\$44.00** times the number of church members in your family and send that amount in a separate check made out to First Presbyterian Church, with "Per Capita" in the memo line.

The difference between what First Presbyterian owes and what is collected from the congregation will come out of the church budget. Thank you for taking care of this so that the church can take care of its many other budget needs.

Becky Mahlum, chair
Stewardship Committee



ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Administrative and Personnel Committee is putting the final touches on the FPC Organizational Manual revision. Like in any organization, things change and there is a need to revise out dated information or add new. This was done by the help of the church staff and various church committees. The revisions will now go to the Session for their approval. We are getting closer to a Parish Nurse. We gathered input from you, the congregation, using a survey on what you would like to see in a Parish Nurse for FPC. The committee will review the information and then base a decision on what kind of applicant we are looking for to help our church family.

Dale Hoerauf, chair



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

This year, our congregation will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Sunday, April 9th. 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. Additional information on the special offering will be provided in March and April. Please consider giving generously.





PASTOR'S MESSAGE



The season of Lent begins this year on March 1st—Ash Wednesday. The forty days of Lent stretching from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day (the Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty) - were originally established in the fourth century to prepare those who were to be baptized during the worship celebration of Easter.

Whether baptized years ago or recently—whether newly confirmed, converted, or committed to Christ or renewing your faith in the midst of many years of Christian discipleship—the season of Lent is intended to be a time of new study and prayer, of service and giving, of strengthening and stretching our faith in Christ, and then of rededication with the “Alleluias” of the Easter celebration of Jesus’ resurrection.

As we embark on our Lenten journey of 2017 I would encourage you to weave together three strands of faith experiences, the strands of: Personal devotions, shared study, and of congregational worship.

Personal devotions: the following portions of Psalm 32 model spiritually a Lenten pathway, leading from neediness in the present to our rededication to a merciful and loving God.

“Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.” (vs. 1-2)

“Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity...and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you.” (vs. 5-6)

(God speaking)

“I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.” (v. 8)

“Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.” (vs. 10-11)

Shared study: this year’s Lenten study group will meet on the Tuesday’s of Lent, at Noon in the church Parlor, and will be using as a resource the book *Lenten Reflections on The Confession of Belhar*. This confession recently has been newly added to the Presbyterian *Book of Confessions*. It was written in the 1980’s as an expression of faith in Christ by the Christian churches in South Africa during the horror of apartheid.

This book has been written in the form of a daily devotional based upon reflections from Scripture, from the confession, and with a daily paper. As we gather weekly we will be sharing and discussing our devotional readings of the week.

If you are free on Tuesdays at Noon, consider joining us. If you cannot you are invited to participate individually by obtaining a book from the church office and following it on your own. (A suggested donation for the book is \$13.00)

Congregational worship: of course, we will be worshiping as a congregation every Sunday morning throughout Lent. Additionally, on Ash Wednesday evening we will begin the season with an evening service including the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper and administering ashes (if you like). During Holy Week, Maundy Thursday will provide a Tenebrae Service with the Chancel Choir singing “Song of Shadows”, also with the Lord’s Supper. On Good Friday the church Chapel will be open from Noon to 3:00 p.m. for the opportunity of personal prayer and reflection, according to your individual timing. Additionally, the Westminster Chimes handbell ensemble will be ringing on March 19th and on April 9th (Palm Sunday).

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (continued)



The sermons throughout Lent will focus upon the Beatitudes taught by Jesus at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12). We will consider a different Beatitude for each of the services of Lent.

Let us each be intentional, and expectant, and humble as we offer ourselves to God throughout this season—allowing the Spirit of Christ to re-shape us into the 2017 people and church that God is calling us to be.

Sojourning with you in Lent,
David Reiter

IRISH SODA BREAD AND TEA SUNDAY

On Sunday, March 19th following Worship service, the Membership Committee would like to extend the hospitality by encouraging your presence in the Parlor for coffee time. We are providing Irish Soda Bread and Tea as an opportunity to linger over conversation. A special invitation is extended to new members and visitors so we can get to know each other better. Please, all join us in the Spring time gathering!

Diann Johnson, chair
Membership Committee



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee of First Presbyterian Church is pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of scholarships for our church community. To be eligible for consideration to receive a scholarship, a student must be an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck or must have been an active participant in the life of the church for at least three years. The awards are given for students at any level of study beyond high school. Four years is the maximum for receiving scholarships: these need not be consecutive years. Graduate students may apply for scholarships, providing they are within the four year maximum. Applications are available in the Narthex and for download from the front page of the church website at www.fcpbismarck.com. The deadline to apply is May 15th, 2017.



WHAT IS LENT?



Friends in Christ, every year before the Christian Passover of Easter we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community. We thus begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. You are invited to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

-adapted from the Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church, USA



PRAYER CHAIN

A prayer chain provides the power and strength of collective prayer for those in need. If you would like to join the prayer chain, or have a prayer need, please contact:

Nanc Skaret at

skaret@bis.midco.net

Or 258-4703

You may also call the church office at 223-6091



EASTER MEMORIALS (*Gift of Giving*)

Each Easter we offer the opportunity to give memorials in memory of loved ones. Donations from Easter Memorials are directed to the Deacon's *Gift of Giving* program, which supports the work of the Deacons and provides assistance to people in need. If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please contact the church office before Wednesday, April 5th, 2016 to provide the information shown below. Your information may be provided by email to firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck, phone call to 223-6091, or a note left at the front desk.

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Donations should be made in cash or check to the church office. Please make checks payable to "First Presbyterian Church" (or "FPC") and indicate "Gift of Giving" on the memo line. All memorials will be listed, without donation amounts, in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

LENTEN STUDY GROUP

Pastor Reiter will present a Tuesday Lenten adult study series, beginning:

**Tuesday, March 7th
at 12:00 Noon
in the Parlor**

You may pick up the book in the church office. Any donation you wish to make covering the cost of this \$13.00 book will be greatly appreciated.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School, PAC and Children's Ministry Update! Teachers Needed for our March-April Lessons!

Our Sunday School and PAC kids will soon be wrapping up our January and February lessons on "The Lord's Prayer". Our kids have been enjoying the new lessons, and have hopefully learned a little bit more about the importance of prayer, and what Jesus asks of us when we pray.

Beginning March 5th, our kids will be learning about "Holy Week and Easter" each Sunday morning and Wednesday night. (Quite appropriate, as Lent begins March 1st!) Each week, our kids will read from the Spark Story Bible, learning about the many events of Holy Week leading up to Jesus' Resurrection and the celebration of Easter.

We invite our families and congregation to join us on this fun journey with our kids!

Each Sunday morning and Wednesday night shares different stories through art, games, drama, cooking, science, and more! Our kids love meeting new people from the congregation, and hope you'll consider joining us, as a teacher or assistant! All supplies are prepared for our teachers, and tailored to *our* kids!

We also have great opportunities for our families to continue the lessons at home...

Ways to join in on the Holy Week and Easter Lessons at Home:

1. Borrow a Spark Story Bible from our library and read through the stories with your kids and family! **Make sure to notice the expressive caterpillar "Squiggles" in every story—he experiences each moment and story with our kids!*
2. Follow along with our cooking classes, art lessons, drama workshops and more! Each lesson comes with an "at home" activity you can enjoy, to keep the lesson going!
3. Learn ideas of how to celebrate Lent with a Holy Week/Easter centerpiece at your table! *Bring our lessons home with the ideas shared in this letter!*

We love each week with our kids, teaching about the story and love of Jesus! We hope our congregation will support us by joining one Wednesday night, or Sunday morning—whether you wish to teach, or just help with the kids! Our families can help make these stories impactful by bringing them into their homes this Lent Season too!

Upcoming Events at FPC:

All Ages Movie Day: Sunday, March 19th. Bring \$3.00 for Pizza! **Movie suggestions welcome!*

PresbyTeens Lock In: Friday, March 24th. Bring \$5.00. Boys are responsible for bringing beverages, while the girls are asked to bring treats and snacks.

Crystal Springs Youth Retreat: April 28-30. 6th-12th grade youth are invited to this awesome, and annual event hosted by the Presbytery. Information is online at www.fpcbismarck.com.

Christian Ed. (continued)



Enough rest at the “Rest Fest” Retreat?!

Over President’s Day Weekend, I had the pleasure of driving 8 of our youth, in a van taller than my house, to a big, beautiful cabin near Nevis, Minnesota. The event was titled “Rest Fest”, and the idea was for our 6th-12th grade youth to “rest”. Before the rest, of course, was an afternoon of Snow Tubing in Detroit Lakes, delicious Zorbaz pizza, and fun car games, which weren’t always successful.



The rest of the event was enjoyed with our group of 23 youth and adults from all over the Presbytery. We joined together in Worship and Scripture, watched a lot of louder than needed movies, and played a lot of pool. Our kids enjoyed walking on the frozen lake, learning new board games, and a big highlight was our “fancy” dinner at a delicious Italian restaurant in Park Rapids.

The idea was to rest, but with many of our youth being Middle School age, “rest” was not their goal. But, unlike other youth retreats, everyone was welcome to sleep in, take their time, and choose their activity. Our kids invented new ways to play Risk, learned new games, got to know new friends, and enjoy time together at a faraway place.

This retreat was a new idea from the Presbytery. After our youth enjoying Triennium, we introduced the fall retreat in Medora, and this “Rest Fest” in Minnesota. I can assume not many Presbyteries, Synods, or other statewide church organizations organize so many opportunities for their youth to come together in different ways. The benefits of this is our youth getting to know each other better and better with each event, and finding new ways to understand God and their faith.

We had a lot, a lot of fun together, and are definitely looking forward to our next big event: the Crystal Springs Retreat April 28th-30th! All 6th-12th grade youth are welcome. Our theme is “Sing, Shout, Make Music”, and we are excited to be bringing in a worship band for the event! Youth should save the date and register as soon as they can, with information available on our website. The retreat costs \$85.00, and we ask for an optional \$15.00 to help cover transportation.



Session Highlights

February 2017

Session Highlights February 28th, 2017

CLERK'S REPORT

The death of Millie Moeller, February 16, 2017 was reported. Session approved the transfer of Emily Johnson to McCabe United Methodist Church and the removal from the roll of Stephanie Weis Johnson. Session approved the reinstatement of Scott Ellis to active membership.

Presbytery of the Northern Plains has a new committee restructuring plan of 4 pods: Mission, Leadership, Care for Congregations, and Care for Pastoral Leaders. Members of the congregation willing to serve on one of these committees can contact the Clerk of Session.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Total Income YTD Actual	\$60,084	Budget	\$37,658
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$37,259	Budget	\$41,954
NET Income	\$22,824	Budget	-\$4,296
General Fund unrestricted	\$200,689		

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Reiter shared the responses from the question, "What do you think God wants most to see happen at FPC?" which was asked at the annual meeting. The Lenten study using the devotional guide, "Lenten Reflections on The Confession of Belhar" begins March 7 and ends April 11, Tuesdays at noon. Pastor Reiter serves on the Presbytery Committee on Ministry and is the temporary moderator for Glencoe. He will be in MN March 20-25 and the week after Easter. March 3 Pastor Reiter will give the prayer for the ND Senate.

DISCUSSION

Session continues to read and discuss "Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers". Chapter 9 described the importance of discernment –prayerful and thoughtful decision-making.

CHURCH OPERATIONS MANUAL

Session approved the draft of the Manual with the understanding that a few items will be reviewed by Session, Child Care Center and Administrative and Personnel Committee. Each standing committee will have a uniform statement about their annual report and work plan.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (taken from minutes)

Administrative and Personnel—Session members will review the bylaws before the next meeting and determine what if any changes are needed. The Congregation would need to approve changes.

Outreach—Session approved the guidelines for eligibility for church scholarships. The application and appropriate scholarship documents will be included in the Church Operations Manual.

Session Highlights (cont.)

February 2017

Property and Equipment—A new wallcovering for the east stairwell has been chosen. Snow removal for January was \$2500. The committee will work with other committees on insurance plans.

Worship and Music—The search for an organist continues. Sound system training will be scheduled soon. A small task force will inventory the banners and determine what if any additional ones might be needed. Pastor Reiter will develop a Good Friday observance similar to last year.

Christian Education—Ash Wednesday Soup Supper will be March 1. Youth will participate in Presbytery Youth Connect trips this summer.

Membership—The committee will work with Ashley Greenwood to encourage youth involvement in the life of the church. More intergenerational events/activities could be planned.

Stewardship—The committee is contacting potential new members to serve on their committee. 170 pledges were received for 2017 totaling \$329,688.96

REPORTS OF RELATED GROUPS

Board of Deacons—Chairs for the various committees: Transportation—Clyde Johnson; Recording—Tedd Gutzke; Visitation—Priscilla Wilson; Touchmark—Ann Lynch; Communion—Ruth Beachey.

Child Care Center Board—The center is investigating a different food service company. Parent Handbook is nearly completed.

PASTOR SEARCH

Session approved the establishment of a Session Search Committee for a Designated Pastor who could become a Called/Installed Pastor. This decision will be relayed to COM and a meeting with Karen MacDonald will be set.

NEW BUSINESS

Installing Wi-Fi in the Parlor is being pursued.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session



BRAVE THE SHAVE ~ WILL YOU HELP?



“*Brave the Shave*” is back for its 10th annual event! It is the region’s largest childhood cancer fundraiser on a mission to conquer kid’s cancer. Since 2008, Brave the Shave has raised more than \$2.2 million for childhood cancer and more than 1,900 people have shaved their heads in solidarity of kids with cancer.

While the campaign continues to grow and evolve, the reason for Brave the Shave will remain the same = It’s for the kids.

Shawn Stettner, CCC Director , and Vanessa Hein, CCC Assistant Director, along with Vanessa’s son, Erik (JR), are “Braving the Shave.” Shawn, Vanessa and Erik (JR) have joined Al Peterson’s Team, “Cooper’s Crew”, to raise funds to support all the other families and children going through cancer treatment and will shave their heads to help conquer kids’ cancer.

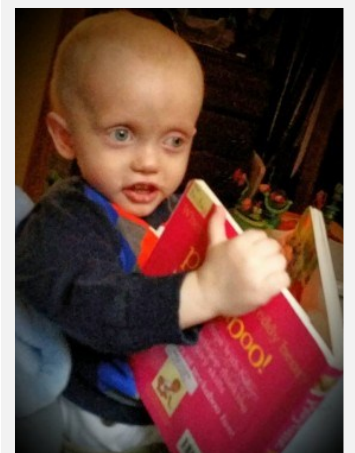
“Al and Tiffany Peterson’s son, Cooper David Peterson, AKA Super Cooper, is a vibrant and energetic two and a half year old boy with a smile that can melt your heart. His battles began in February 2015 when he was diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis Type 1 and Optic Gliomas (benign tumors on the optic nerves). After a MRI showed proof of Tumors, we immediately drove to the University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s hospital for an appointment with one of the top NF specialists in the country for consultation and treatment. We also learned that the damage to the optic nerves caused by the Gliomas was permanent and Cooper is blind. We spent the next ten months taking Cooper for weekly chemotherapy treatments to try to shrink the tumors. We also had MRIs and appointments in Minneapolis every three months. It was at the appointment in December 2015 that they discovered he developed hydrocephalus and needed emergent surgery to drain the fluid and stop the swelling of his brain. While conducting the surgery, they had to postpone the shunting because of excess bleeding. They installed a temporary shunt and Cooper spent a couple of days in the PICU while the fluid drained enough to continue the shunts surgery. They also took a biopsy which turned out our worse fears; Cooper had developed Diffuse Fibrillary Astrocytoma, a type of cancerous tumor that spreads into brain tissue rather than growing on it. Surgery is not an option. These tumors have shown up in the Thalamus and Hypothalamus in the brain and possibly in other tissue as well. Cooper did have the shunt surgery and has two shunts draining his brain fluids.

“Since traditional chemotherapy drugs are not effective against stopping his tumors, we were accepted and continuing to participate in a drug trial using a MEK Inhibitor to stabilize the tumor growth and try to “starve” the tumor. We travel every four weeks to Minneapolis (483 miles) for appointments and have an MRI taken every third appointment. Cooper is improving on the trial drug and is making gains in growth. We did have the third ventricle begin to have fluid buildup. The third shunt was placed in December 2016.

“Super Cooper continues to amaze us. With all he goes through, with the pokes and prods and long car rides and having to take medication daily, he still gives everyone he meets a big smile and a giggle.

“As a parent going through the trauma of childhood cancer, just the reassurance of knowing that an organization like Brave the Shave is there to support and help you out is comforting. Please consider supporting our fundraising efforts.”

Shawn and Vanessa each hope to raise \$1,000, while Erik hopes to raise \$500 to help conquer kid’s cancer. Perhaps you would like to help them reach this admiral goal. Shawn and Vanessa can be found on Cooper’s Crew at <https://donate.bravetheshave.coop/team/100719>. The Brave the Shave Flagship Event will take place March 10th, 2017 at the YMCA. Any amount of donation would be welcome!



This Month's Anniversaries & Birthdays

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

Eleanor Sand	2nd
Edith Weber	2nd
Olivia Bachmeier	3rd
Drew Henriksen	3rd
Becky Murphy	3rd
Ethan Lannoye	3rd
Kim Hocking	3rd
Dawn Henriksen	4th
Johan Mahlum	5th
Duane Ehrens	6th
Zach Strombeck	8th
Mary Hoberg	10th
Darlene Kelley	11th
John Bjornson	11th
Doris Doolittle	12th
Larry Larson	12th
Otto Reile	12th
Kathleen Gappert	12th
Mary Ingstad	13th
Juanita Hocking	15th
Jim Rambo	15th
Don Bigwood	16th
Judy Lentz	16th
Connor Svihovec	17th
Carol Zimmerman	17th
Alice Halling	19th
Larry Hoge	19th
Susan Schafer	21st
David Poffenberger	26th

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

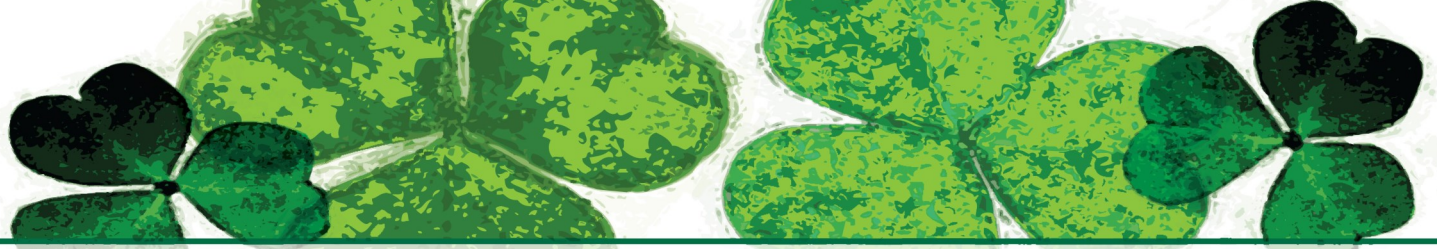
Heather Davis	27th
Sandy Westerlind	30th
Karmen Svihovec	31st



ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Will & Ruth Beachey</i>	<i>Mar. 10th</i>
<i>Fred & Pam Helbling</i>	<i>Mar. 18th</i>
<i>Steve and Laura Adair</i>	<i>Mar. 20th</i>
<i>Dale & Lael Hoerauf</i>	<i>Mar. 22nd</i>

All birthdays and anniversaries are taken from the church's membership database. If we made a mistake, or missed you or a loved one, we apologize and ask that you please let us know so we can update our system. If you do not want your birthday listed in a bulletin or newsletter, please let us know that as well. Thank you!



MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>** Please be advised...there are outside groups that meet at the Church throughout the week/weekend THAT ARE NOT ON THIS SCHEDULE! If you have questions regarding room availability, please call the office at 223-6091 **</p>			<p>1 5:30pm Soup Supper (Ramstad) 6:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service</p>	<p>2 12:00pm Stewardship Comm. (Conf. Rm) 6:00pm Membership Comm. (Conf. Rm) 6:30pm Outreach Comm. (Parlor)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 8:30am Circle (Parlor)</p>
<p>5 9:00am Adult Discussion (201) 10:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 6:00pm Confirmation (Parlor)</p>	<p>6 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Room 202) 7:00pm Christian Ed. Comm. (Conf. Rm)</p>	<p>7 12:00pm Lenten Book Study (Parlor) 5:30pm Prop. & Equip. Comm. (Parlor) 5:30pm Yoga (Room 202)</p>	<p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>8 12:00pm Munch & Mingle (Ramkota) 5:30pm PAC/PresbyTeens 6:30pm Westminster Chimes 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9:00am Yoga (Room 202)</p>
<p>12 9:00am Adult Discussion (201) 10:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School</p>	<p>13 5:00pm Admin & Personnel (Parlor) 5:30pm Worship & Music Comm. (Conf. Rm) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Room 202)</p>	<p>14 12:00pm Lenten Book Study (Parlor) 5:30pm CCC Board (Conf. Rm) 5:30pm Yoga (Room 202)</p>	<p>15 6:00pm PAC/PresbyTeens 6:30pm Westminster Chimes 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>16 7:00pm Deacons (Parlor)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 11:00am Mildred "Millie" Moeller Funeral *No Yoga*</p>
<p>19 9:00am Adult Discussion (201) 10:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:00am Irish Soda Bread & Tea Sunday (Parlor) 11:00am Kids Movie Day (Theater Room) 6:00pm Confirmation</p>	<p>20 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Room 202)</p>	<p>21 12:00pm Bus. & Finance Comm. (Conf. Room) 12:00pm Lenten Book Study (Parlor) 5:30pm Yoga (202) 7:00pm Bridge (Parlor)</p>	<p>22 5:30pm PAC/PresbyTeens 6:30pm Westminster Chimes 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 9:00am Yoga (Room 202)</p>
<p>26 9:00am Adult Discussion (201) 10:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School</p>	<p>27 7:00pm Boy Scouts (Room 202)</p>	<p>28 12:00pm Lenten Book Study (Parlor) 5:30pm Yoga (202) 7:00pm Session</p>	<p>29 5:30pm PAC/PresbyTeens 6:30pm Westminster Chimes 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>7:00pm Friday— 10:00 am Saturday Youth Lock-In</p>	
<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>
<p>Newsletter Articles Due!</p>						



March Fun Facts

- ◆ The birthstone for March is aquamarine
- ◆ The zodiac signs for March are Aries (3/21-4/19) and Pisces (2/19-3/20)
- ◆ The birth flower for March is daffodil
- ◆ American Red Cross Month
- ◆ Fire Prevention Month
- ◆ Women's History Month
- ◆ National Reading Day
- ◆ Saint David's Day
- ◆ World Math's Day—the first Wednesday in March
- ◆ March 1st is the date the Nebraskans celebrate the admission of their state to the union
- ◆ March 2nd is celebrated by Texas as the anniversary of its independence from Mexico
- ◆ On March 4th, 1681, William Penn was granted Pennsylvania's royal charter
- ◆ March 25th is celebrated by people in Maryland to commemorate the arrival of the first Maryland colonists in 1634.
- ◆ March 8th—International Women's Day
- ◆ March 12th—Daylight Savings Time starts
- ◆ March 14th—Pi Day
- ◆ March 17th—Happy St. Patrick's Day
- ◆ March 19th—St. Joseph's Day
- ◆ March 22nd—World Water Day

March Communion Servers



COMMUNION SERVERS

Wednesday, March 1st, 2017
Ash Wednesday

Tedd Gutzke JoAnn Hodny
Ella Gutzke Ruth Beachey

Communion is available to be served at home, hospital, or nursing home to anyone who is unable to worship with the congregation. Please call church office to schedule time.

223-6091



COMMUNION SERVERS

Sunday, March 5th, 2017

Steve Adair	Judy Lentz
Jay Cofell	Bob Kinnischtzke
Fred Larson	Dale Hoerauf
John Richter	Carole Watrel
Clyde Johnson	Diann Johnson

Communion is available to be served at home, hospital, or nursing home to anyone who is unable to worship with the congregation. Please call church office to schedule time.

LAY READERS

March 1st ~ Ash Wednesday
Damita Engel

March 5th
Jay Cofell

March 12th
Jon Thomson

March 19th
Dave Ingstad

March 26th
Donna Richter



March 2017 Usher/Greeter/Coffee Host

- March 1st:** **Captain:** Bob Kinnischtzke
Ushers: Jerry Lindblom, Stan Halling, Alice Halling, Dave Nix, JoAnn Hodny
Reception Host: None needed for evening service
- March 5th:** **Captain:** JoAnn Hodny
Ushers: John Richter, Donna Richter, Jerry Wilson, Clyde Johnson, Diann Johnson
Reception Host: Audre Goll
- March 12th:** **Captain:** Tedd Gutzke
Ushers: Ken B., Runick Fru, Vic Sonneman, Audre Goll, **1 more volunteer needed**
Reception Host: **Volunteer Needed**
- March 19th:** **Captain:** Olivia Bachmeier
Ushers: Mark Jensen, Lynn Dodge, Steve Adair, Ron Carlisle, Neva Carlisle
Reception Host: **Volunteer Needed**
- March 26th:** **Captain:** JoAnn Hodny
Ushers: Matt/Damita Engel, Cindy Cross, Don Cross, **2 more volunteers needed**
Reception Host: **Volunteer Needed**

FAMILY NEWS

Deaths

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to the family and loved ones of those who have died:

Mildred “Millie” Moeller

If you have a birth, wedding, death, or other life-event announcement that you would like included in the next newsletter, please provide the necessary information to Charee in the church office at 701-223-6091 or firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY ~ MARCH 17th

St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated by many people throughout the world, Irish or non-Irish alike, with food, drink and all things green. But do you really know why this is such an important holiday?

St. Patrick was a 5th-century Romano-British Christian Missionary and Bishop in Ireland. Known as the “Apostle of Ireland”, he is the primary Patron Saint of Ireland.

According to the *Confessio* of Patrick, when he was about 16, he was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Great Britain and taken as a slave where he looked after animals until his escape six years later. At that time he returned to his family. This crisis would have dealt a crushing blow to most people, but St. Patrick isn’t a saint for nothing. He overcame his displacement, endured his time as a slave and clung resolutely to a divine vision of helping his Irish Kinsmen. Indeed he did! After becoming a cleric, he returned to Northern and Western Ireland, and virtually single-handedly established a strong foothold of Christianity in the area. In later life, he served as an Ordained Bishop. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the Patron Saint of Ireland.

We celebrate St. Patrick’s Day on March 17th ~ the day of St. Patrick’s death (461 A.D.). He was an incredible individual because he was a fighter, an innovator and staunch in his passion for bringing awareness to the Christian faith.



Happy St. Patrick’s Day



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Sunday Worship Schedule
Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 am.

Office Hours
8:00 AM—5:00 PM Monday-Friday
(closed from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm Friday)

Staff
Pastor
Rev. Dr. David Reiter

Christian Education Director
Ashley Greenwood

Finance Assistant
Vickie Haas

Administrative Assistant
Charee Linton

Organist
Jan Candee

Choir Director
Debi Rogers

Bell Choir Director
Lael Hoerauf

Custodian
Les Hornbacher

Membership Services
Judy Lentz
Shelli Peterson

Child Care Center Director
Shawn Stettner

Child Care Assistant Director
Vanessa Hein

