



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



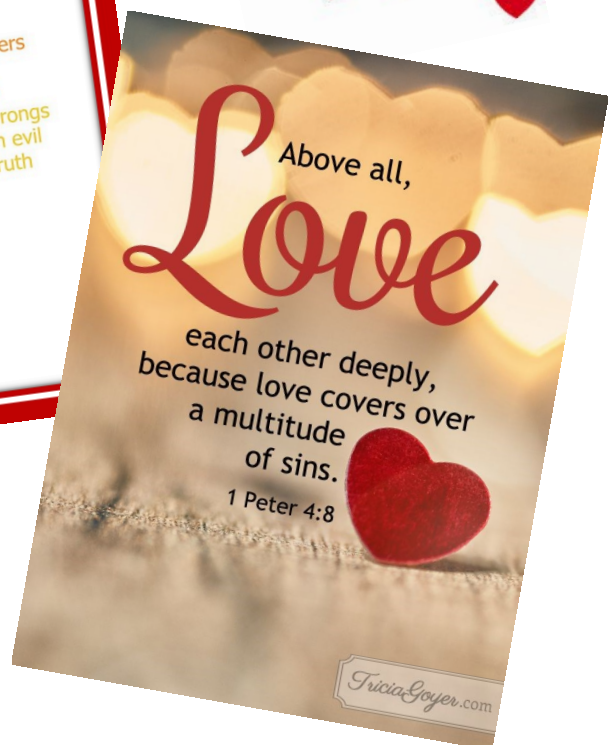
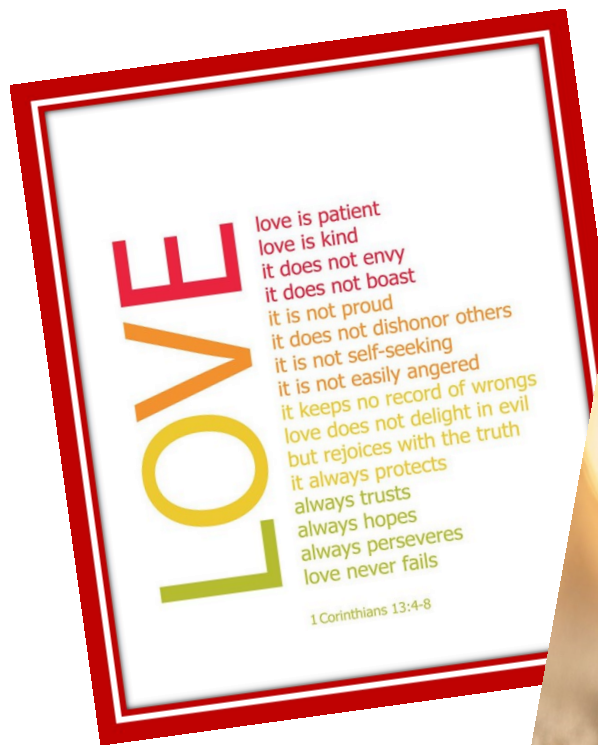
Here & Now!

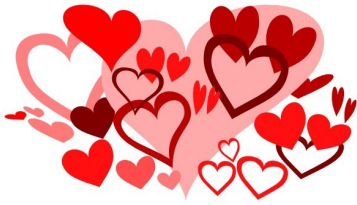
February 2017
Volume 64, Issue 2



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BELLRINGER'S BAKERY

On Sunday, February 26th, the *Bellringer's Bakery* will be open for business with a caramel roll sale. The fresh-baked rolls will be offered in the Parlor after the service, but if you don't have time to stay and visit, take-home plates will be available. Proceeds will go to our handbell travel fund. This fund assists the ensemble members with expenses they incur attending seminars and festivals sponsored by the Handbell Musicians of America in an area covering four states and one province. These events help us in our continued efforts to hone our skills and incorporate new techniques and music for participation in worship.



PER CAPITA PAYMENTS DUE

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, 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

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." ~ John 3:16



PASTOR'S MESSAGE...

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” ~ (Philippians 4:6-7)



What helpful verses these are for us to embrace and make our own...at absolutely any and every new beginning...or new phase...or new steps we may have before us. These could be used at the start of: a new day—or a new year—or a new challenge or adventure—or a new personal relationship— or embarking upon a trip—starting a new job (or retirement) - or even at the start of a new political administration! Try them out—they are reassuring.

As a congregation, we just accomplished the 2017 Annual Meeting. It was a great time of food and fellowship—along with recounting and celebrating the 2016 church calendar year, and doing the necessary and important business of the church. Among many things we learned are:

- ◆ Church membership basically head steady (net decrease of just 1 member)
- ◆ Church finances are in good standing, and in “good hands” of the Business and Finance Committee and Stewardship Committee, and the financial leaders
- ◆ The church’s Child Care Center continues to be an outstanding mission outreach of First Presbyterian Church
- ◆ The church staff continues to serve with outstanding skills, dedication and a deep desire to see the church do well, even as the vast majority of them are not members of this church. And that...
- ◆ This congregation is blessed and supported by an abundance of self-giving and praying members who volunteer unendingly, and who love and want the very best for the church!

A question that I asked to be discussed around each of the tables at the Annual Meeting was: “What is it that you think God wants to see most at First Presbyterian Church?” I also issued a couple of “ground rules” with questions. Two answers not allowed were: 1) “more members” and 2) “young families with children.” Of course, both would be great to see. But those answers are “too obvious.” But also, are we sure that those are what *God wants to see most?* Ahead of anything else?

The question is an appropriate one to ask at such a meeting as we look ahead to the 2017 year. It also is an appropriate question as the church begins to anticipate a search for a new pastor over the year ahead (upon my announcement of retiring at the end of 2017).

And, it actually is a question we who love the church should be asking of ourselves and each other—every single day! Aren’t we always desirous of and driven by a desire to be a part of what God wants to see most of FPC?

I would encourage you to continue to ponder that question, and talk about it with one another—as you go about being the great church in 2017 that you were in 2016. As you continue to love and serve your Lord through your worship and prayers, your study as you continue to develop your faith, and your serving others.

And, as you prepare for the season of Lent which is on the horizon, beginning March 1 with the Ash Wednesday service as ashes and communion...and the new steps in faith that await you, and await us all.

“Do not worry about anything...the peace of God surpasses all understanding...”

David Reiter



Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

~ 1 John 4:7

MEALS ON WHEELS

Volunteers Needed for Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is a vital service for homebound folks in our community. Each year our congregation commits to providing drivers for one month for this wonderful program. We are looking for volunteers again this year from the month of March. Three volunteers are needed for each day, Monday through Friday. Please consider helping bring warm meals and a smile to homebound folks. Sign-up on the Volunteer Board in the Narthex.



SOAP COLLECTION

During the month of February, the Outreach Committee will be collection the following items to be donated to Ministry on the Margins:

- ◆ Dish Soap
- ◆ Laundry Detergent
- ◆ Shampoo/Cream Rinse
- ◆ Bar Soap/Body Wash



Your donation may be dropped off in the big wooden box in the Narthex. Again, we thank you for your help.

ADMINISTRATIVE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Administrative and Personnel Committee is putting the final touches on the church Organization Manual before it goes to Session for approval. Although there is an Organization Manual, the committee found the need to update the current manual. A subcommittee has been formed to seek feedback from the congregation as it relates to a Parish Nurse.

ENHANCED COFFEE HOUR



*Enhanced Coffee Hour in the Parlor
Sunday, February 12th, 2017*

It has been said that the best conversations take place in the kitchen. With that sentiment in mind the Membership Committee is planning an enhanced coffee time for Sunday, February 12th, in the Parlor following Worship.

We first and foremost encourage you to participate by joining us, also we are requesting that those who like, bring simple foods to share such as breakfast breads, fruits, or any specialty you prefer. Please sign-up on the Volunteer board in the Narthex.

Thank You!

Diann Johnson, chair
Membership Committee

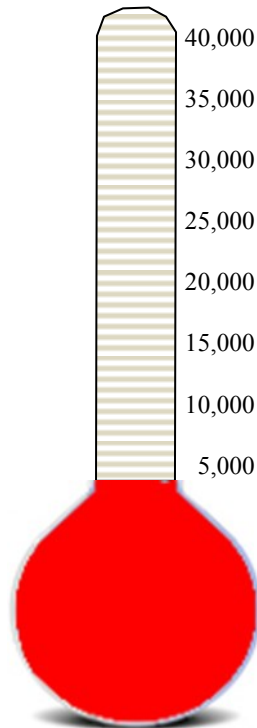


CCC OUTDOOR CLASSROOM FUNDRAISER

The Child Care Center wants to provide a safe outdoor play space that will provide the children with potential for cognitive, social, and emotion growth. Our final goal is \$40,000.

The Outdoor Classroom Wish Book will be in the narthex showing all of the individual pieces – contribute a little or buy a whole piece. In order to purchase the play equipment, we need your generous donations!

Drop your donations in the church office and remember to note “outdoor classroom” on the envelope or check!





Ashley Greenwood

Christian Education Director

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

I'd like to share with you my experiences as I take classes with Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Luther Seminary has made many changes in the past few years as they shift their focus towards creating the best online Seminary program in the country. There are a good handful of students who live on campus, or in the Twin Cities, but the classes I take are mostly filled with students from all over different areas of the country, and world.

“Students” is a funny term to use, as the people I am learning with are currently lawyers, counselors, youth directors and city newspaper staff. These Seminarians are all coming from different walks of life as they discern what their future holds, and what God is calling them towards. Many have felt the call to ministry since they were a child; some have been able to follow that call immediately after college, and some have waited 20-30 years before finally pursuing their Ministry of Divinity Degree towards being a Pastor in the ELCA church.

Those studying towards their Master of Arts Degree, like I am, come from many different backgrounds. Many of us work in the church, while most of us live all over the country. There are very few who study full-time, either living on campus or near Luther Seminary. Not every student studying these degrees are Lutheran and it's always exciting to find out the background of our many students within each class. There's always an interesting story about what has brought each individual to study at Luther, and what they plan to do with the degree they achieve.

This past January, I took two classes at Luther, both taught by Professor Andy Root, who is mentioned as one of the leading scholars in youth ministry and practical theology in the world. The two classes discussed the theological frameworks of our work in children, youth and family ministries, and the role of family and childhood within the church. We discussed the theological implications within Children's Sermon, Confirmation, and the role of the church in family life, childhood, including the impact of divorce. The classes covered many topics, and were incredibly intriguing to discuss with seminarian students from all over the world.

I took note of the students in my classes as we discussed “Family, Childhood and the Church.” We had several international students within the course, ranging from Ethiopia, Madagascar, Nigeria, the Philippines, and more. We learned of the different types of “family” in their cultures, and the role of the church within it all. It was fascinating to hear of their stories, and they were excited to learn more about the American culture and religions as well.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

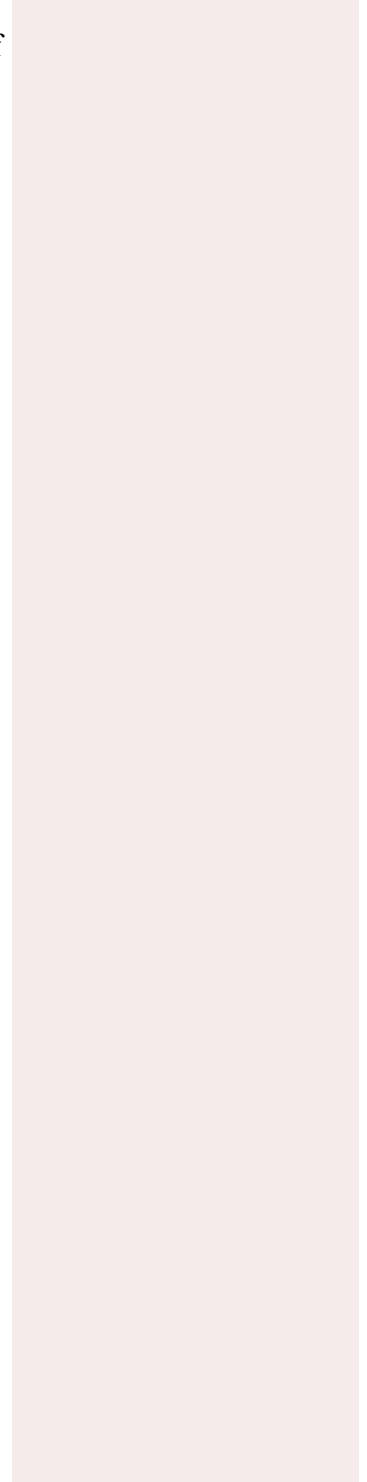
I'm greatly enjoying my studies at Luther Seminary. Last semester was a learning time for me, juggling three classes, a new puppy, and work life here, but what this first semester did was inspire me for the road that is ahead. This isn't college, where you skim everything you're supposed to read, "cram hard" for each test, and forget the information as soon as possible. This is a time where I sincerely want to learn all this is being offered, look forward to the discussions from experts within my class, and am inspired by each professor's different style of teaching, and theological spin on everything discussed.

It's true what they say about God having a path set out for you. I juggled with the idea of attending Seminary for the past several years, and just last January, met with an admissions rep at a youth workers conference, and here I am! I am so thankful for all the support I've heard from our members of the congregation, and I look forward to seeing how all these lessons tie into the ministry and life of First Presbyterian Church in the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to learn, and the support you've shared with me. I hope to continue on to share all I can in these years of study together!



A small group from one of my online classes was able to meet together in Minneapolis during January's class after spending our first semester sharing about our ministries, faith, and life. These leaders come from Florida, California, Iowa, and Washington.





Ashley Greenwood
Christian Education Director

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School Update!

Our Sunday School Children are currently learning about “The Lord’s Prayer” through fun activities like cooking, music, science and more! Sign-up to help teach any Sunday!

Our kids meet for Sunday School during 10:00 am Worship on Sundays, and begin by meeting in the Movie Room with music from our popular Vacation Bible Schools. Each week, we share an offering for the charity: “Rice Bowls.”



We are very thankful in January, when PresbyTeen Kathryn Brown brought in her violin to play for the Sunday School kids, as well as share with them parts of the violin, and how it is to be held.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Summer Trip Info Meeting Wednesday, February 15th at 7:30 p.m.

6th-12th graders and parents are welcome to stay after Wednesday night PresbyTeens to learn about the great opportunities they have for Mission Trips this summer! Our High School youth will be traveling to Denver, Colorado July 15th-22nd and our Junior High youth will be enjoying a long weekend to Minneapolis in June. Plan on joining us to hear more about these incredible trip opportunities—friends are welcome!



MISSION TRIP

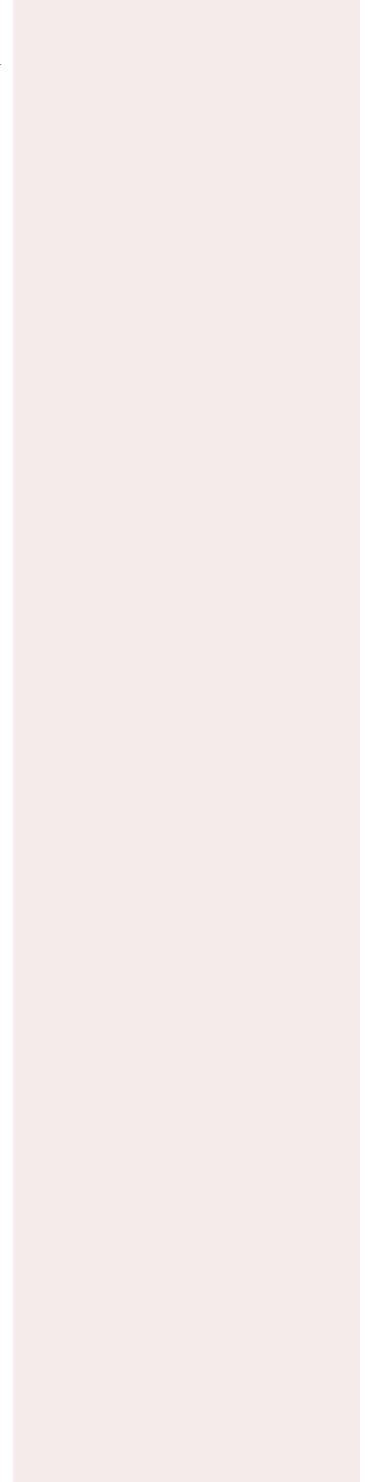
“Rest Fest” PresbyTeens Retreat February 18th-20th

Our PresbyTeens will be meeting with youth from the Presbytery of the Northern Plains in Detroit Lakes, MN during President’s Day Weekend for “Rest Fest”, a retreat where their options include rest and relaxation!

It seems like there is always something planned or something we need to do so we place rest last on our priority list. Our culture has trained us to keep busy and have our life programmed out. This retreat is designed to get away from your daily routine and allow you to rest and to have some fun!

Take time to relax, hangout with your friends, and enjoy God’s creation, finding rest in Him. Our 6th-12th grade youth have the options of visiting a waterpark, snow tubing at Detroit Mountain, viewing a local “Polar Plunge”, and much more.

Youth are asked to register with Ashley by Friday, February 3rd. The retreat costs \$70-\$85, with scholarships available.





Session Highlights

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
Saturday, January 21st, 2017

CLERK'S REPORT

With the deaths of Robert Shope and Ted Gray, membership is 514. Session approved the request for baptism of Violet Rain Peterson, daughter of Brandon Peterson and Lekota Fox on February 12th, 2017. Session approved the statistical report that Vickie Haas sends yearly to Louisville.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD	Actual	\$457,794	Budget	\$464,606
Total Expense YTD	Actual	\$463,587	Budget	\$463,362
Net Income		-\$ 5,793	Budget	\$ 1,244
Unrestricted General Fund		\$177,864		

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES (from minutes and meetings)

Business and Finance—Parish Nurse task force has met. There will be bulletin inserts requesting input from the congregation.

Administrative and Personnel—The Procurement Policy is being clarified and the Church Manual was presented to Session to review for possible corrections. Email addresses of Session members may be posted on the bulletin board so the congregation has easy access. There have been no applicants for the position of organist.

Property and Equipment—The bill for snow removal in December was over \$4,000. A letter was sent to the company that “fixed” the elevator documenting ongoing problems.

Worship and Music—The communion dates for this year will be the first Sunday of each month with the addition of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday (not the first Sunday in April) and Christmas Eve.

Christian Education—The Adult Ed class continues to meet on Sunday Mornings. A Lenten series is planned for Tuesdays at noon. \$1,453 was received in Christmas Eve offerings to be used for VBS. Each confirmation student will have a mentor.

Membership—There will be pizza served before the annual meeting Sunday, January 29th. The committee is seeking new members.

Stewardship—Names from time and talent surveys were given to various committees. The committee will not use the Pony Express pledge method next time. In 2016 pledged income was up but non-pledged income was down.

Session Highlights (continued)

Nominations—Ella Gutzke will chair the 2017 Nominating Committee with Carole Watrel as co-chair.

REPORTS OF RELATED GROUPS

Child Care Center Board—Fundraiser is going well. The CCC is in the process of renewing its state license.

OTHER BUSINESS

Session approved regular meetings at 6:00 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

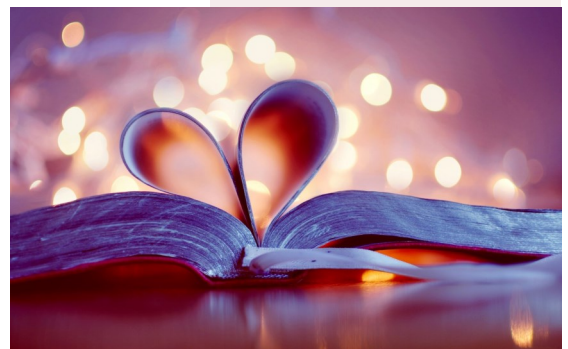
Pastor Reiter will be serving on the Presbytery Committee on Ministry. His time away will be Jan. 30th-Feb. 3rd.

Jim Skaret gave an overview of the work of the Presbytery of Northern Plains. Session approved sending Jim and Ella Gutzke as Commissioners to the next Presbytery meeting in West Fargo in April.

The church bylaws need to be reviewed.

Pastor Reiter explained the additional goals from the Presbytery’s Designated Pastor Call and Covenant. The Session will work on sustainability and visioning. Pastor Reiter announced that he would be retiring at the end of 2017. Jim Skaret will contact Presbytery Clerk to see when and how a new search might begin.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





BIRTHDAYS

- Abby Bjornson
- Annabelle Wohl
- Gladys Cairns
- Judith Libby
- Jouvet Forbang
- Paul Jensen
- Isaac Jensen
- Josh Stokka
- Susan Thompson
- Eleanor Herdebu
- Jackie Lannoye
- Irene Johnson
- Samantha Ronningen
- Clinton Dykema
- Cathy Kinnischtzke
- Pacome Tchatchoua
- Tamara Gallup-Lelm
- Priscilla Wilson

FEBRUARY

- 1st
- 1st
- 5th
- 6th
- 8th
- 9th
- 13th
- 17th
- 17th
- 18th
- 20th
- 20th
- 22nd
- 22nd
- 23rd
- 23rd
- 26th
- 27th

ANNIVERSARIES

*Corey Hedland & Jennifer Boeckel
February 23rd*

*All birthdays and anniversaries are taken from information you provided to the church. 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!*





February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30pm PAC/ PresbyTeens 6:30pm Westminster Chimes 7:30pm Choir	2 12:00pm Stewardship Comm. (Conf. Rm) 6:00pm Membership Committee (Conf. Rm) <i>*No February Outreach*</i>	3	4 8:30am Circle 3 (Parlor)
5 9:00am Adult Discussion Group (201) 10:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School Boy Scout Sunday 100th year with FPC- Bismarck	6 7:00pm Boy Scouts (202) 7:00pm Christian Ed. Committee (Conf. Rm)	7 5:30pm Property & Equipment Meeting (Conf. Rm)	8 12:00pm Munch & Mingle (Ramkota) 5:30pm PAC/ PresabyTeens 6:30pm Westminster Chimes 7:30pm Choir	9 7:00pm Called Session Meeting (Parlor)	10	11
12 9:00am Adult Discussion Group (201) 10:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:00am Enhanced Coffee Hour 6:00pm Confirmation	13 5:00pm Admin & Personnel (Parlor) 5:30pm Worship & Music (Conf. Room) 7:00pm Boy Scouts (202)	14 5:30pm CCC Board (Conf. Room) 	15 5:30pm PAC/ PresbyTeens 6:30pm Westminster Chimes 7:30pm Choir	16 7:00pm Deacons (Parlor)	17	18 Youth Retreat ~ Rest Fest!
19 9:00am Adult Discussion Group (201) 10:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School Youth Retreat ~ Rest Fest!	20 7:00pm Boy Scouts (202)	21 12:00pm Business & Fianance (Conf. Rm) 7:00pm Bridge	22 5:30pm PAC/ PresbyTeens 6:30pm Westminster Chimes 7:30pm Choir	23	24	25
26 *Bellringer's Bake Sale* 9:00am Adult Discussion Group (201) 10:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 6:00pm Confirmation	27 7:00pm Boy Scouts (202)	28 7:00pm Session (Parlor)	** 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 **			



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

214 East Thayer Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-6091

E-mail: firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com

We're on the web!

www.fpcbismarck.com

January 2017 Usher/Greet/Coffee Host

February 5th: Captain: Ruth Beachey

Ushers: Boy Scouts Troop 6, Dawn Henriksen,
Chris Henriksen, Mallory Henriksen, Drew Henriksen

Reception Host: Boy Scouts Troop 6

February 12th: Captain: Jennifer Boeckel

Ushers: Ann Lynch, Steve Adair, Carolyn Barks, Ron Carlisle,
Neva Carlisle

Reception Host: Jerry & Phyllis Lindblom

February 19th: Captain: Lynn Dodge

Ushers: Jody Bachmeier, Steve Adair, Jay Cofell, Cindy Cross,
Don Cross

Reception Host: Jan Gilchrist/Kathryn Brown

February 26th: Captain: Tedd Gutzke

Ushers: Priscilla Wilson, Jerry Wilson, Ella Gutzke, Letha Lewis,
Mark Jensen

Reception Host: Alice & Stan Halling

LAY READERS

Feb. 5th Mallory
Henriksen

Feb. 12th Carole Watrel

Feb. 19th Tammy Lelm

Feb. 26th Dave Nix

*If you are unable to serve on the date
scheduled, please find a replacement
and then contact the office with the
changes.*

223-6091



COMMUNION SERVERS

Becky Mahlum	Gail Brown
Dennis Rosenkranz	Bill Jensen
Neva Carlisle	Matt Engel
Priscilla Wilson	Jim Rambo
Kathy Wachter	Alice Nix

Sunday, February 5th, 2017

*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

