

APRIL 2019

MORE SPACE FOR GOD

Dear Family of Faith,

As we continue through the season of Lent we will continue to explore ways to “make space for God” in our daily journey of faith. So far we have been asked to: Consider ways we can make space in our lives. We’ve been asked to hold on to the good news that “I belong to God,” and meditate on that good news each morning. And last Sunday we were asked to begin the practice of saying thank you to God each night for three specific things that we experienced in the day.

As we move closer to Holy Week and Easter morning I want to invite you to make space in the ways you walk through the end of this season of Lent. To truly appreciate the joy of Easter morning we need to walk to the cross with Jesus during Holy Week. We will begin on Palm Sunday, April 14th, as we start worship waving our palms in welcome and end worship with the “stripping of the sanctuary.” You can read more about this in the newsletter. This symbolically moves us into the week where Jesus was abandoned by his disciples, giving up his power, to walk to the cross for us.

Please plan to be with us on Maundy Thursday April 18th as we remember and celebrate Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples. Then, we will move to a Tenebrae Service. Through the reading of Scripture and the dimming of the lights we will walk with Jesus to his death on the cross, ending the service in darkness and prayer.

The mystery, joy and celebration of the empty tomb of Easter morning cannot come until we have been to the cross together, remembering that Jesus gave up everything for us, so that we might be held eternally in his love.

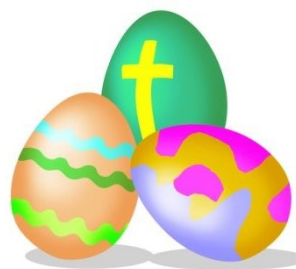
Let us walk this road together, making space in our lives to remember that God so loved the world, that God sent the only Son, that whoever believes in him, will not perish but have everlasting life. This is our Good News, will you make space to walk the journey? With you on the journey, Pastor Becky

FPC'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT
AN OUTREACH TO OUR COMMUNITY
FOR 4TH GRADERS & YOUNGER
APRIL 13TH AT 10:00 A.M.!! (Rain date is April 20th)

Please consider one or more of the following ways to help....

Donate any of the following specific items that are needed:

1. Rice Krispie treats or cookies &
2. 3 gallon size jugs of juice--



Please sign up on Mission Central for the ways you will help this year!

3. Volunteer your time: setting up outside on Friday, April 12th at 5:00 p.m.,

or hiding eggs on Saturday, April 13th at 7:30 a.m.

4. Helping at the refreshment table and/or leading a group of children to the Hunt.

Please sign up on Mission Central for the ways you

will help this year!

SPACE FOR GOD-- LENTEN & HOLY WEEK SERMON SERIES

Based on Donald Postema's book *Space For God*

March 31-Prayer as Attitude and Act

April 7--Wrestling with God

April 14-Palm Sunday--Prayer and Justice/Compassion

April 21--Easter-The Goal is Glory

that he can "water-walk" in the pool at the Y, doing so with less discomfort, and with progress (speed and duration) he can measure.

One exercise does not fit all. Find the activity that suits your physical needs as well as your emotional and spiritual needs.

All this is to say: Do not be drawn into the one-size-fits-all trap. You are your best expert. You know yourself better than any one other human. Ask questions, seek second (or third, fourth) opinions, try different methods until you find what works, and remember that we are all uniquely, wonderfully, and lovingly made in the image of our Creator.

Shalom!

Laura Brown, RN

Parish Nurse

April Sundays: 7, 14, 21, 28

Don't forget that Laura is available "on-call" during the week. You can call her at 309-314-5605.



UnityPoint Health

PARISH NURSE NEWS

Ultimate April Fool's Day Joke

The origin of April Fool's Day is unclear, but springtime pranks have been documented since the 1500's in multiple cultures. Suffice to say, there will always be a prankster and a gullible fool. In my humble opinion, there has been an on-going prank for many decades that we all seem to fall prey...

"ONE SIZE FITS ALL"

I'm sorry to be the one to let you down, but this is not true!!!! No matter the item or service, one size does not fit all. Including our health. While the experts (medical doctors, scientists, researchers) and various studies come to conclusions about what is good, bad, beneficial or detrimental in health care today, it is important to question results, look deeper, and explore more widely, these results. One study does not make for fact. Multiple studies sponsored by the same investigative agency may be skewed. And a course of action for one person may not be good for another person who has similar circumstances.

This is not to say that we should ignore the recommendations of our health care team. After all, these people are highly educated in the study and treatment of our health. They are doing their best with the information they have. Here are some personal examples:

My husband has high blood pressure, and my sister has high blood pressure, and they both have the same doctor. However, their medication and treatment is different, because they are uniquely different from one another, in physical make-up and health histories. (If my husband runs out of his medications, he cannot borrow a few pills from my sister.)

One treatment does not fit all. Listen to the recommendations of your doctor, and seek a second opinion if needed.

My youngest grandson Connor has deadly allergies to eggs, dairy, soy, tree nuts and pea protein, as well as some environmental allergies. He thrives on foods consisting of beans, rice, grains, meat and being a kid, sugar. I have found over the past year, that my joint pain (rheumatoid arthritis) is worse when I eat beans, rice, grains, and sugar. I thrive on eggs, dairy, nuts, and so on. Needless to say, I do not eat any of these things for 12-16 hours before spending time with Connor. I watch him every Friday.

One diet does not fit all. What helps one person may be debilitating, or even deadly for another.

I enjoy leisurely strolling through nature, using the time to connect with God (when the weather is good and my joints are not hurting). Ronnie, my husband, has severe spinal stenosis, finds walking very painful, yet he has found

APRIL 14TH--10 A.M. WORSHIP -- PALM & PASSION SUNDAY,

9:50--Children meet in the Library to get your Palms so you can march through the Sanctuary during the opening hymn.

Dedication of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, Kids bring your fish banks up to the Communion Table before you line up in the Library.

We will conclude this service with the Stripping of the Sanctuary.

The Stripping of the Sanctuary is a church tradition dating from the 7th century. Usually scripture is read as in silence the decorative and liturgical (or worship-related) objects are removed from the sanctuary. This symbolizes Jesus' abandonment by his disciplines in Gethsemane. It is also a sign that Christ, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors, experiencing desertion, shadows, betrayal, questions, and the seeming finality of death. All is emptiness remembering that in the days before Easter people knew that nothing would ever be the same again. The Sanctuary remains bare until Easter morning.

HOLY WEEK

THURS. APRIL 18TH--7:00 P.M.--Maundy Thursday--

COMMUNION AND TENEBRAE WORSHIP --

A Service of Light and Shadows



SATURDAY APRIL 20TH AT 10:00 AM --

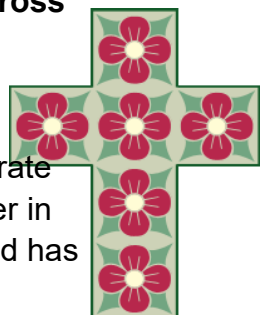
PREPARING THE FLOWERS FOR THE CROSS if you can help us cut the flowers for the Easter Cross **please sign up on Mission Central**. Please bring good shears or clippers, and some like to bring garden gloves because of the roses. 8 Helpers will get it done!

SUNDAY APRIL 21ST--10:00 WORSHIP--EASTER SUNDAY MORNING

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Celebrating the Resurrection with the Floral Cross

This Easter we will again be decorating a 6-foot wooden cross with flowers that will be provided during worship. Beginning at 9:45 a.m. come enjoy the Easter Prelude and come forward and put several flowers onto the cross. Together we will celebrate the joy and beauty of this Easter morning as we rejoice together in Jesus' resurrection. This tradition was started Easter 2009 and has become a beautiful addition to our Easter Celebration!



SUNDAY APRIL 28TH —HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY!!!
OUR 8TH ANNUAL HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

On April 28th we will return to a tradition we started in 2005 called *Holy Humor Sunday*. This will be our first time since 2014! This usually takes place on the Sunday after Easter. It is a day to celebrate that the greatest joke in the history of the world was Jesus' victory over sin and death—they will never have the last word. God's love in Christ has the last word...the only Word! Let us continue to praise God for the amazing gifts of the Risen Christ!

HISTORY: For centuries, in Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant countries, Easter Monday and Bright Sunday (the Sunday after Easter) were observed by the faithful as days of joy and laughter with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Parishioners and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, sang, and danced. It was a time for clergy and people to tell jokes and to have fun. The custom of Easter Monday and Bright Sunday celebrations were rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Easter was God's supreme joke played on death.

Risus paschalis —the Easter laugh, the early theologians called it. In 1988, observing that the celebration of Jesus' resurrection has been sorely neglected by 20th-century Christianity, the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging member churches and prayer groups to resurrect the old Christian custom of Easter Monday or Bright Sunday celebrations, as the early Greek Christians called it. At a time when Jesus' resurrection has been subjected to an onslaught of ridicule and disbelief, the Fellowship sought to shore up belief through ongoing resurrection celebrations. Many churches from different traditions have responded enthusiastically. In a revival of a very old Christian custom, many churches all over the country are extending the celebration of Jesus resurrection to Bright Sunday and calling it *Holy Humor Sunday*.

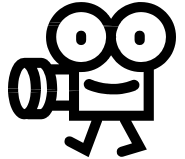
—Information from the homepage of the Fellowship of Merry Christians.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE: You are invited to bring appropriate and joyful, mirth-filled jokes to share during the brief joke breaks. As you are considering your jokes, ask yourself, would I tell this joke in front of my grandparents in church, AND, would they think it was funny and appropriate?!

CHILDREN Bring your favorite **KNOCK KNOCK JOKES, OR RIDDLES** that your parents say are OK to be told in church! Come and share the joy with us!



2ND FRIDAYS AT THE MOVIES
Fun, Food, Fellowship...And A Movie!
FRI. APRIL 12TH—6:30 PM—YOUTH ROOM
Movie: THE GREEN BOOK



“When Tony Lip (Mortensen), a bouncer from an Italian-American neighborhood in the Bronx, is hired to drive Dr. Don Shirley (Ali), a world-class Black pianist, on a concert tour from Manhattan to the Deep South, they must rely on "The Green Book" to guide them to the few establishments that were then safe for African-Americans. Confronted with racism, danger-as well as unexpected humanity and humor-they are forced to set aside differences to survive and thrive on the journey of a lifetime. “ (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!
APRIL 13TH, 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 **APRIL 2ND**

We meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at
1:00 p.m.

Please join us on April 2nd.

Chapter 4:

“God with Us When We Seek God”

If you would like a Study book, talk to Ella Layer.



PRESBY SENIORS

Presby Seniors will meet on APRIL 24TH at Noon.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month,

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

Pastor

Karol Ellison

Church Secretary

Laura Brown, R.N.

Parish Nurse

David Blakey

Choir Director

Gail Glockhoff-Long

Bell Choir Director

Linda Miller

Organist

Sarah Lack

Nursery Attendant

Cathy Dillon

Indoor Custodian

Marty Ellison

Outdoor Custodian

Please Keep Our Nursing Home and Homebound Members **in Your Prayers**

Crosstown: Helen Stone; Friendship Manor: Marynell Kirkwood, Mary Catherine Sneed; The Fountains: Dorothy Horton; Good Samaritan Village, Geneseo: Kay Etzel; Park Vista: Carol Brewer, Jan Dravis, Betty Hogue, Al Uzzell; Personal Residences: Ted 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, Both Michael and Caleb Kassehin are in ROTC through the National Guard. Major Kyle Curry, Minnesota Army National Guard

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

Ines Kassehin—Pharmacy School, Washington D.C. Caleb Kassehin--University of Dubuque; Greg Layer--WestPoint; Jack McNeil—DePaul University, Katey Maxwell & Devin and 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

**FPCEM--100 YEARS OF WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST!
SUNDAY APRIL 7TH--RIGHT AFTER WORSHIP
JOIN THE PLANNING TEAM FOR OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY
AS A CONGREGATION!**

On Nov. 11, 2021 First Presbyterian will turn 100 years old! Would you like to help us design the celebration of this milestone? Come to the Dining Room after worship on April 7th and we will begin dreaming of how we will celebrate together! We hope to have a variety of ages, and a mix of long-time members and new members and friends join the planning team. Bring your ideas and let's dream together how we will thank God for the journey of being the church!



Please Sign up on Mission Central!

A reminder: We continue to collect pictures and newspaper articles about our friends and members. Just drop them off in the church office; please make sure newspaper articles have the date on them. It is helpful with pictures to have dates and names.



**NEW POP MACHINE---
STILL HELPING YOUR YOUTH GROUP!**

We now have a pop machine that takes dollar bills! Just a reminder, whenever you buy pop from the machine the profit from the pop sales goes to our youth group and their events! Because pop prices have risen through the years, for the first time in 8 years there will be a price increase from 75 cents to \$1/can...to help the youth!

Watertown Food Pantry News

Due to a very nice article in the Dispatch by Claudia Loucks, we received several unexpected donations this past month in the form of money and food. This is much appreciated and God's hand at work!



I would like to introduce you to another partner we have. It is the Midwest Food Bank out of Peoria and a most amazing God centered organization. Started in 2003 by a local farm family who offered a small space and some extra produce they had to their local food pantries, it is now a growing and highly regarded charity with 8 locations in the USA (3 in Illinois), one in East Africa and one in Haiti. This is the way a food bank should be run (!) and I encourage you to visit their website at midwestfoodbank.org. They come to the QC once a month with an assortment of food, etc., for the participating food pantries and all is given at no charge. They can have semis on the road within 24 hours of a disaster, filled with food and supplies, again all at no charge. If you're ever looking for a volunteer opportunity or a good place to send a donation, I highly recommend Midwest Food Bank. Please check out their success story.

Our FPC family is also a bright star shining for us! In February you helped us serve 94 families consisting of 184 adults and 147 children. Our ongoing needs aside from monetary donations are: toilet paper, bags of sugar, 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 buy fresh milk and eggs every week. (We can also use individually packaged toothbrushes or even those little bars of soap or bottles of shampoo and lotion you get at hotels. Nothing goes to waste!)

Again, thank you all for your support and prayers as we continue into our third year of operation. Please feel free to ask any of us questions you may have.

Gratefully -
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!)

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES!

“Continuing on the journey of faith.”

4 year olds through 12th Graders —Sunday School

Youth Choir — for 4 years through 12 Graders in the Music Room.

8:45 A.M. God's Kidz—*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—

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

There is no prep, just come to the classroom by the library and we'll read and learn together

The 2nd Floor Seeker's Class—Beginning April 7th we will begin Discussing the Book: *Same Kind of Different as Me*. Books cost \$5.00. Available on the Table on the way to the Doughnuts. Questions? Talk to Pastor Becky.

Reading Schedule: April 7th, Chapters 1-13
April 14th, Chapters 14-27
April 21st--Easter, No Class Meeting
April 28th--Chapters 28-41
May 5th--Chapters 42-55
May 12th--Chapters 56-67



**APRIL 28TH--YOUTH GROUP--TACOS AND
A GAME NIGHT! 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Bring a friend and come create a taco or two or three of your own creation! Then get ready for a night of goofy games and great talks.... Get ready for favorites! Telepictionary, spoons, bubblegum relays and more! Weather permitting we might even be able to head outside! Sign up on mission central if you are joining us!

2ND GRADERS TO 12TH GRADERS SUMMER CHURCH CAMP AT STRONG- HOLD IN OREGON IL



Come to Stronghold Summer Camp and take home memories for a lifetime! Experience singing around the campfire, learning new skills like archery and canoeing, touring the Castle, learning to work together on the teambuilding course, and making new friends as well as a wide variety of activities like Bible study, hiking, arts and crafts, group games, nature study, swimming, cookouts, and experiencing God's creation first hand. For more information, **find a brochure on the table by the doughnuts**, look online at strongholdcenter.org,

Our church will provide scholarships covering half the cost of camp for all children of the church. This will be covered by Memorial Monies. If you bring a friend with you who does not attend church they will need to pay the full cost. Last year the campers were able to raise their half of the cost with a bake sale here at church, so once you are all signed up we'll coordinate some fund raisers! Want first-hand stories from camp? Talk to Anna Barrigah, Madelyn & Daphne Curry, Kylee Littlejohn and Brianna McGill.

Talk to me if you have questions, pick up a brochure, or check out the website: strongholdcenter.org. Then **turn in your registration to Pastor Becky by April 21st** so the church will send the deposit and your registration.

**AND -- THE WHOLE CONGREGATION!
KEEP DROPPING OFF YOUR BEVERAGE CANS
ON THE 3RD SUNDAY!
LAST YEAR THEY PROVIDED OVER \$200 FOR CAMP!**



Darlos Stroud
1337—21st Ave.
Rock Island, IL 61201
(Phone number is the same.)

FIRST PRESBYTERIANS ON A MISSION SUNDAY April 28TH AFTER CHURCH TIL 3:30 P.M. *Closet2Closet--Clothes for children and youth in the Foster Care System*

Closet2Closet was started in Rock Island by a 7th grader who was in the Foster System. Later she and her twin sister were adopted and wanted to help children like them have clothes that they actually wanted to wear! Closet2Closet now helps 8-20 year olds. We are going to help them with the change-over from winter to summer clothing. Get ready to help create a boutique shopping experience for foster kids!

We will carpool and decide where to go for a quick lunch after church.

PLEASE SIGN UP ON MISSION CENTRAL by Sunday April 26th.

WEAR comfortable clothes as we'll be working in a warehouse setting, so dress in layers, so you are ready for whatever temp it is!

THEN GET READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD!

Want to know more about Closet2Closet? See Flyer on Mission Central.

BIRTHDAY KIT MINISTRY

The birthday kit ministry is still going strong and there is a great need for this to continue. However, we need your help. Would you please consider donating cake mixes, cans of frosting, birthday candles, plates, or napkins? The Youth Group Sunday school class participates in this ministry as well by shopping for the supplies and putting together the birthday bags. The birthday bags get distributed to families who come into the Watertown Food Pantry. Look for the big birthday cake, graciously made by Karen Paytash, to put your donations of supplies. Thank you very much!





POP-TABS UPDATE & THANK YOU

You did it! In just 3 months you donated 3.5 pounds of pop tabs; that's over 4,400 pop tabs. Each one helping raise money for Children who go to the Shriner's Hospital in Chicago, where there is no charge to their families for their care! Thank you, Your Mission Commission



QUARTERLY MISSION APRIL, MAY, JUNE Bethany Home

Diapers and baby wipes are needed.
Please bring your donations to the cart in the hallway outside the Sanctuary.
Thank you!

An Invitation from the Finance Commission and your Pastor

As you heard at our Congregational Meeting on December 2nd, we entered the new year with a substantial deficit forecast for 2019. What you also heard at the meeting is that there is an answer to this deficit. If each household in the congregation who is able were to give \$3 more per week/\$12 more per month, the deficit would decrease significantly. As you consider your giving to God, and the ministries and missions of our church in the coming year, we would like to invite you to consider accepting this challenge, as you are able. We are trusting in God's care, and our shared life together as First Presbyterian Church,

The Finance Commission and Pastor Becky Sherwood

A Note from the Finance Commission:

February Income = \$10,803

February Expenses = \$16,210

January through February Income = \$37,622

January through February Expenses = \$34,456



ALL-CHURCH OUTSIDE WORK DAY--SATURDAY APRIL 6TH 9:00 A.M. TO NOON

Your Property Commission invites you to come help them get the Church Grounds ready for the Easter Egg Hunt and

Spring. Please bring tools if you have them: hedge trimmers, weed trimmers etc., if you have them!

We will be:

- removing sticks and twigs from grounds for Easter Egg Hunt
- trimming hedges
- cleaning the garage
- putting down dirt and grass seed along walkways

Please SIGN UP ON MISSION CENTRAL so we know who is joining us! Thank you, Your Property Commission and Pastor Becky



**SAVE THE DATE!
PLACING FLAGS AT THE ARSENAL
FOR MEMORIAL DAY
THURSDAY, MAY 23RD AT 4:00 P.M.**



**SAVE THE DATE!!!
Vacation Bible School
VBS 2019
JULY 14-19, 2019**