

The Chimes

of First Presbyterian Church

March 2017

A monthly newsletter for friends and members of our church...



Keep Paddling

1 Cor. 10:12 "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall..."

I was watching a reality TV show called "Dual Survival". Two guys are teamed up to survive harsh and wild nature conditions without any proper gear, let alone food and water. In one episode, they had to cross over a churning river on a makeshift raft, using oars made from broken branches. Of course, it was difficult for them to control where they were going on the raft through the rolling, white waters. They pulled as hard as they could on the oars, but it was no use. Then one guy was unable to keep up paddling, but the other guy said, "Keep it up. Keep paddling or we won't be able to go where we want on the river."

What the guy said reminded me of our marriages. One major reason marriages are on the rocks is because we stop paddling... I mean we stop trying. We put all our passion and time into trying to attract each other at the beginning of the relationship. We listen more attentively than talking. We take care of the other more than being taken care of. However, these loving gestures are often ignored in a marriage. We stop paddling in thinking that we're on the right track since we are in this marriage. That's why many marriages hit rock bottom or finally end up drifting in an unexpected direction.

The real problem is not the lack of love or good intentions, but the fact that:

- **We are not aware of the current on the river.**
- **We don't really grasp what our partner wants and have no idea on how to get back on track.**

This attitude is found in our relationship with Christ too. Being titled as a Christian doesn't automatically mean we are in Christ. Being baptized doesn't necessarily mean we are a saved person either. But you must know that we can easily fall into sin and be away from the love of God. Getting close to Him and growing in faith requires our efforts to know and learn more about the Lord. We must keep paddling if only to be in the right direction with God.

Jay Kim



Ash Wednesday Service March 1st, 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

- 515 Emerson Ave. - P.O. Box 396 - Alliance, NE 69301 - (308) 762-1775 - E-Mail: fpca@bbc.net -

- Website: www.alliancefpc.com - Reverend Jay Kim, Pastor -

It Takes a Lot of People

Wk	Flowers For Month	Elders Communion	Children's Message	Ushers For Month	Greeters	Liturgist	Prayer Team
3/1	Ash Wednesday	1) P. Dobry 2) K. Toedtli					
3/5	Open	1) J. Butzine 2) B. Blakey F. Tolstedt	Hannah Weisgerber	V. Hughart B. Dobry A. Hughart A. Boots	Tim and Linda Mills	Pat Dobry	Available Prayer Team Members
3/6		Communion Crossroads					
3/12	Open		Amanda Mittan	Same	Dennis and Sandy DeBusk	Pat Dobry	Available Prayer Team Members
3/19	Open		Manda Clarke	Same	Karel Essex		Available Prayer Team Members
3/26	Open		Kim Hielscher	Same	Cliff Furrow		Available Prayer Team Members

****Men's Breakfast****

Our Men's Life Group will have their next breakfast on Saturday, March 11th in the Fellowship Hall.

Make sure to bring a friend to breakfast!



Attention: The Covenant Commitment (Formerly Per Capita) for 2017 is \$50.08 per member. You can remit this with your regular offering on Sunday, please just designate that it is your Covenant Commitment in the Memo portion of your check. Thanks to all who have already taken care of this.



Statement of Receipts - February 2017

Offerings	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/26			Monthly Total	Bal. Fwd	YTD - 2017
Pledged Offerings	8,022.00	1,288.00	6,994.00				16,304.00	8,047.00	24,351.00
Un-pledged Offerings	635.00	195.00	75.00				905.00	1,732.00	2,637.00
Loose Offerings	29.00	19.00	12.00				60.00	149.26	209.26
Total Offerings	\$8,686.00	\$1,502.00	\$7,081.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$17,269.00	\$9,928.26	\$27,197.26

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It is time to be thinking about applying for Scholarships through the Presbyterian Memorial Scholarship Fund.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Betty Blakey, Memorial Committee Scholarship Chairman, at 308-762-5539

March Anniversaries

- 5 Jean and Paul Maxwell
- 9 Kevin and Roxanne Foster
- 24 Insun and Harold Colerick
- 25 David and Carmen Minnick
- 31 Dick and Diane Foland



Circle Meetings

Good Morning Circle

Good Morning Circle will be meeting Wednesday, March 1st at 9:00 a.m. at the Church. Linda Johannes and Georgia Heckman will be Hostesses.

Serendipity Circle.

Serendipity Circle will be meeting Wednesday, March 1st at 1:30 p.m. at the church. June Tolstedt will be Hostess.

C.T. Board

C.T. Board will be meeting on Wednesday, March 15th at 9:00 a.m. at the Church. Hostess will be Elaine Potmesil.

March Birthdays

- 2 Steve Blakey
- 6 JoAnn Tolstedt
- 7 Barbara Kendle
- 7 John Prella
- 8 Manda Clarke
- 9 Barrett Haller
- 10 Janet Schlattmann
- 17 Floyd Swanson
- 18 Jaelyne Clarke
- 18 Colton Lucas Kelley
- 19 Jayden Kim
- 20 Jill Green
- 20 Michael Braga
- 21 Jennifer Sampson
Jacob
- 22 Douglas G. Thomas
- 22 Jess Clarke
- 23 Cherity Bedient



The P.W. Spring Rummage Sale will be held Friday, March 31st from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm., and Saturday April 1st from 8:00 am to Noon. Workdays for the sale will be March 28th-March 30th.

Please keep this in mind when you are doing your spring cleaning. We have a wonderful collection of items but of course we can always use more, so there is still time for you to hit those closets, basements, and garages for items you'll no longer use. Thanks for your donations!



Children and Youth News — March 2017



How will March come in and go out this year? We will find out soon!

Thank you to Gayle Redecker, who instructed the children in the Elementary Classroom in February. The children had a good time making valentines to pass out to the Congregation the Sunday before Valentines Day. Hope you were a recipient of one of their loving creations. Colleen Hood will be leading the Elementary Classroom in March.

The Lenten "Secret Pals" Ministry will begin Sunday, March 5th. Thank you to those of you who volunteered to be a sponsor, sharing your love for the children of our Congregation through this ministry. At the time I am writing this newsletter article, there is still a need for one more sponsor. This annual ministry will conclude with a Lenten Pal Luncheon on Sunday, April 9th, shortly following the morning worship service. The children, their families, and sponsors are invited to attend. The children will learn the identity of their secret pals and then share a meal together.

There is also a need for someone to teach in the Elementary Classroom in May. If you can help, please contact Barb Kendle (762-1679) or, Pat in the Church Office.

It's time to start thinking about attending church camp this summer. The Church will start to receive summer camp information soon. In the past, our children have attended Camp Rock just outside of Bridgeport, NE; Camp Norwesca, close to Chadron; Victory Heights (also close to Chadron); and, Highlands Camp in Colorado. If your child/children would like to go to church camp this summer, please let Barb Kendle know, or Pat in the Church Office. Camp registrations usually need to be in around the first part of May. Camp Rock sometimes has "early bird" discounts for registrations before April 1st and May 1st. Camperships from the church will be available. The amount available varies with the number of campers each year. If you would like to donate to the Church's Camp Scholarship Fund, specify on the memo line of your check that the monies are to be designated for camp scholarships.

Speaking of summer, tentative dates of Sunday, July 24th through Wednesday, July 26th, have been selected for a short VBS for the children of the church. Please pencil these dates in on your summer calendar so your children can attend. Also, if you would be available and willing to help with this VBS, please let Pastor Jay, Barb Kendle, or Pat in the Church Office know.

The CYM Team will meet next, as part of the Spiritual Formation and Outreach Team, on Sunday, March 5th, in the Conference Room, after worship and fellowship. Please feel free to join us.

Barb Kendle, CYM Moderator

The young families of the Church will be having a Young Family Picnic (BBQ & Games) on June 25th, at 11:30 am at the Alliance City Park Shelter House.

There is also a Young Family Retreat planned for July 28th to 30th at Lake McConaughy.

Both of these events are planned to encourage our young families to get to know each other better and to experience fellowship in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. We are hoping that all of our young families will be able to attend, and we ask that you would please pray for and support these upcoming events.



Save The Dates!

Bible Studies and Times:

Sunday—Morning Star—8:00 a.m. (Agents of Babylon)

Sunday—Adult Sunday School —9:00 a.m. (Living With Confidence in a Chaotic World)

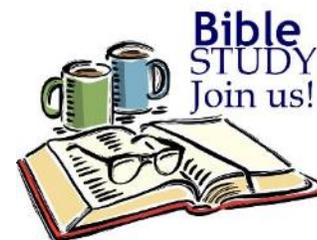
Tuesday—Early Morning Bible Study—6:30 a.m. (Escape the Coming Night)

Tuesday—EWG Bible Study—9:00 a.m. (Encounter With God)

Wednesday—Young Family Bible Study—6:30 p.m. (Esther—It's Tough Being a Woman)

Thursday—Women of Faith—9:00 a.m. (Also beginning Esther—It's Tough Being a Woman)

Thursday—Living Stones—2:00 p.m. (Ten Questions Christians are Asking)



This and That . . .

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Outreach/CYM/SFP Team invites you to a Sunday afternoon egg decorating party following Worship on Sunday, April 2nd at 2:00 p.m. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

You will need to bring six or so, hard-boiled eggs; or, blown out and cleaned eggs. Everything else will be supplied for you.

We are planning for a laughing, good time! Please come and bring friends. If you have any questions please call Elaine Potmesil 487-5325.



for Missions

The Missions Team is very grateful to all of you who purchased cookies at our Heart for Missions Tea. We raised \$467 to date, more than enough money to pay our annual sponsor fee to support Gospel for Asia missionary, Rachana Chaudhary, who is serving in Nepal. The balance of that money will be used to further the Gospel in another area. Our team is especially appreciative for the help of cookie expert, Connie Hansen, Janet Schlattmann, Barb Kendle and Pat Dobry. Thanks for coming to the aid of our party!

Kathie Toedtli, Moderator

Offering Envelopes

Beginning in 2018 the church will no longer provide offering envelopes. The smallest number of boxes that we can order is 30, and there are always eight or nine boxes left over.

We will continue to supply the generic envelopes from Hubbard Press in the pews as long as supplies last, or any regular envelopes that you might have at home will also work to put in the offering plate.

The important thing to remember would be to make sure that if your offering is for anything other than the General Fund...to indicate that on the memo portion of your check.



Your Trustees have been discussing work projects for 2017, that are needed for our building and grounds. The southeast corner of the kitchen and above, outdoor roof leak has been repaired by Jerry and we are now fixing the damaged wood piece and the patching of plaster cracks and peeling needs to be done. We are looking for anyone in the Congregation with plaster experience to lead the Trustee Members in how to make this repair.

A possible fundraiser toward the fund for replacing the Parlor windows has been suggested. The Sunday before Mother's Day and Mother's Day Sunday, Elaine would set up her camera and backdrops to take immediate family photos for a donation towards the windows. She will e-mail the photo file, or copy it onto a flash drive if the family would provide one. The family could then take the file to the printing business of their choice.

Please watch for more details closer to May.

Trustee's Planning

Stewardship Corner

The following are the last five of ten “Essential Truths” regarding Christian Tithing. The first five were shared in the February Chimes.

6. **The Bible teaches that Christian giving should be done in light of the incarnation.** Many Christians argue about whether the tithe (10% of our income) is still the standard for our giving to the Church (disputants usually want to show that less than 10% is fine). Paul scuttles the whole debate in one verse. He says: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich” ([2 Corinthians 8:9](#)). Christ’s self-giving is now the standard for our giving! We begin from the base of the tithe and aim for emulation of His self-sacrifice. Our giving is to be inspired and instructed by Christ’s inexpressible gift. In light of such a challenge, who could possibly satisfy himself with asking “how little a percentage is acceptable for me to give?” **Do you try to get by with giving as little as possible to the Lord, or do you give in view of the Lord’s costly sacrifice?**

7. **The Bible teaches that Christian giving should be done in accordance with our means.** Paul is quite clear on this: “For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have” ([2 Corinthians 8:12](#)). Put another way Paul is saying that you should give in proportion to what God has given you. He said it this way in ([1 Corinthians 16:2](#)), “each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper.” This means at least two things: (1) since we are all supposed to give proportionately, those who have money are expected to give more [we who are particularly blessed materially must remember this], and (2) the Lord never asks us to give what we do not have, or contribute beyond our means. **Are you really giving in proportion to the material blessings that the Lord has given you?**

8. **The Bible teaches that the liberality of God’s blessings to us is connected to the liberality of our Christian giving.** Though it may seem strange, both Jesus and Paul emphasize that there is a relation between our giving to the Lord and the Lord’s giving to us. As Paul says in ([2 Corinthians 9:6](#)) “Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” About this matter J.A. Beet once said: “They who in giving think, not how little they can give, as they would if self-enrichment were the aim, but of benefits to be conferred, will receive back on the same principle. As they do to others, so God will act to them.” Jesus reminds us of this in ([Matthew 6:4](#)), where He teaches that our reward in giving comes from our heavenly Father. As someone once said: “The desire to be generous and the means to be generous both come from God.” **Do you realize that the Lord has given you much, so that you can give much?**

9. **The Bible teaches that Christian giving must be willing giving, free giving.** We learn this in ([2 Corinthians 9:7](#)) “Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion.” But doesn’t this contradict what we learned under the first principle, that Christian giving is not optional? The answer is, of course, no. True Christian giving is both mandatory and voluntary. It is required by God, but always willingly given by the believer. **Is your giving to the Church something you do wholeheartedly, or indifferently, or grudgingly?**

10. **The Bible teaches that Christian giving ought to be cheerful giving.** As Paul says “God loves a cheerful giver.” This is a truly amazing assertion. Paul assures us here that the Lord takes a special delight in those who are joyful, energetic, merry givers. **Is there joy in your heart as you give? Can you truly be characterized as a “cheerful giver”?**

We have not come close to reaching our potential for giving. Won't you pray that we will give as we ought? That we will give for the right motives? That we will give joyously? And that we will give extravagantly.

Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III is the Senior Minister of First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi and is the author of this article.



March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Daylight Savings Time Begins on March 12th Spring Forward!	ASH WEDNESDAY Please join us in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, March 1st at 6:30 P.M. for our Ash Wednesday Service. There will be no soup supper preceding the service this year.	1 ASH WEDNESDAY -9:00 Good Morning Circle—Hostesses: L. Johannes/G. Heckman -1:30p Serendipity Circle—Hostess: J. Tostedt -6:30p Ash Weds. Service	2 -9:00 Women of Faith -Noon—Lenten Lunch St. Matthews Church Kent Steinke, Speaker -2:00p Living Stones	3 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	4	
5 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship, Communion -11:45 CYM, SPF, Outreach Mtg	6 12:45p Communion at Crossroads	7 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 Missions Meeting -9:00 EWG at Crossroads	8 -6:30p Family Bible Study -11:00 Memorial Team Meeting -Noon—Lenten Lunch St. Johns Lutheran Jonathan Ervin, Spkr -2:00p Living Stones	10 -12:00 Noon Hilltoppers	11 -8:00 Men's Life Breakfast	
12 Doves Sunday -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -Bring Prayers to Microphone -Baptism -10:30 Worship -11:45 Bible Study Leaders Mtg	13 -7:00p Session Meeting	14 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads -6:30p Trustees Meeting	15 -9:00 C.T. Meeting at Church—Hostess: E. Potmesil -6:30p Family Bible Study	17 	18	
19 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship -11:45 Deacons Meeting	20 	21 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads Chimes Deadline	22 -6:30p Family Bible Study	23 -9:00 Women of Faith -Noon—Lenten Lunch Alliance Berean Art Smith, Speaker -2:00p Living Stones	24	25
26 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship	27 -11:30 Ladies Lunch at Arbys -7:30p Prayer and Worship Mtg.	28 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads	29	30 -Noon—Lenten Lunch Holy Rosary Church Coke McClure, Spkr	31 P.W. Rummage Sale 8am-6pm	April 1st, 2017 P.W. Rummage Sale 8am-noon

Set-Up Spring P.W. Rummage Sale

First Presbyterian Church

515 Emerson Avenue

P.O. Box 396

Alliance, NE 69301

Return Service Requested



March 2017

Thoughts for the Journey—How We Worship...

THE WORSHIP OF GOD IS THE HEART OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND CENTER OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH. The Westminster Shorter Catechism affirms that our chief end in life is “to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” This places the worship of God at the very center of what it means to be God’s people and makes worship the highest expression we can render to our God-given humanity. Christian worship is a corporate act of the people of God where we gather to realize God’s presence and respond with praise to God’s gift of love to us in Jesus Christ.

The next several months this column will focus individual acts of worship that take place each Sunday.

THE SACRAMENTS

The Sacraments observed by Presbyterians are the Lord’s Supper (also called Holy Communion or the Eucharist) and Baptism. Both sacraments were instituted by Christ, who invited His disciples to observe them. A sacrament is a visible sign of an invisible grace. Both point to the incarnate Word and declare that Jesus Christ is present.

Communion is the re-enactment of Jesus’ last meal in the Upper Room as described in the Gospels and in 1 Corinthians. It is a holy celebration of the presence of Christ, who is risen and alive. Holy Communion points to our union with Christ as we live and work within the community of faith. The Lord’s Supper is usually celebrated at least once per month. Our celebration coincides with special days in the life of the Church.

Baptism, the act of cleansing, marks our reception into the household of God. Following the New Testament practice, the baptism of infants, adults, and children requires a commitment of the congregation to nurture the Christian growth of each individual as a member of the family of faith. Baptism is scheduled through the pastor at the request of an individual.

Let’s begin to approach our morning of worship as we enter the Sanctuary—directing our hearts and minds towards our gracious God in order to glorify Him and give ourselves totally to Him in praise and worship.