The Chimes

of First Presbyterian Church

March 2016

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



Sorrow and Joy

Psalm 23:4 "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff--they comfort me."

In his book "A Grief Observed," C.S Lewis expounds his perspective on the countless difficulties and periods of sadness in his life. Among them, he candidly describes the process of grieving for his wife, who died of cancer after three years of marriage. C.S. Lewis married his wife when he was 45 and expected to have a long, happy life with her. However, his wife's death redefined his own characterization of faith and God. In his book, he wrote, "God never answers my prayer. Where is He? Whenever I need Him, He hides himself more deeply and remains in a secret place." However, his anger and bewilderment at God met its turning point when his wife spoke one simple sentence before she died. She said, "I'm more peaceful than ever because of God."

I have met a handful of people who have turned away from their faith because God did not answer their prayers on time, and who even became atheists because they didn't understand the coexistence of pain and joy in their Spiritual journey. Is it true that as children of God, our lives should be absent of suffering and sorrow? Doesn't the Scripture prove that many great people of God went through a multitude of unpleasant moments? That is why David confessed in this Psalm that the darkness wasn't removed, but he walked though it with God's strength.

Living a successful life both in the world and on our spiritual journey does not depend on how content we are without our life's difficulties, but on our belief that God's peace and grace are present in the midst of the hardships of our lives. The strength of God's power is maximized when we are determined to be confident in Him during seemingly insurmountable life challenges. Look beneath the surface of your life conflict. Then you will find God's great blessings.

Jay Kim

It Takes a Lot of People

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Wk	Flowers For Month	Elders Communion	Deacons	Ushers For Month	Greeters	Liturgist	Prayer Team
3/6	Lenten Flowers	1) J. Butzine 2) J. Green L. Curtiss	G. Redecker S. Kammerer C. Furrow	V. Hughart A. Hughart I. Colerick B. Dobry	Donna Zeller Diane Martinez	Lyllus Dalbey	Kathie Toedtli Pat Dobry
3/7	Communion Highland & Crossroads						
3/13	Lenten Flowers			Same	Misty, Ben and William Nollette	Pat Dobry	Sherri Fry Kim Hielscher
3/20	Lenten Flowers			Same	Dennis and Sandy DeBusk	Marty Jones	Barb Kendle Laona Perrin
3/24	Maundy Thursday	1) S. Fry 2) B. Blakey	N. Green S. Kammerer L. Dalbey				
3/27	Lenten Flowers			Same	Pat Howell	Marty Jones	Sue Kammerer Ray Hielscher

Men's Breakfast

Our next Men's Life Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 12th at 8:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Men of the church, please come share in our time of fellowship and remember to invite a friend to come too!

Do unto others...with soup! Remember our ministry of soup and take it out into the community. Invite those you bless to church. Tell them we care!

Per Capita for 2016 is \$48.00 per Member.

February Receipts

Offerings	2/7	2/10	2/14	2/21	2/27	Monthly	Bal. Fwd	YTD - 2016
Pledged Offerings	3,754.00		1,773.50	988.50		6,516.00	10,298.87	16,814.87
Un-pledged Offerings	345.00		560.00	130.00		1,035.00	2,145.00	3,180.00
Loose Offerings	42.00		47.00	51.00		140.00	90.00	230.00
Total Offerings	\$4,141.00	\$0.00	\$2,380.50	\$1,169.50	\$0.00	\$7,691.00	\$12,533.87	\$20,224.87

Cookie Corner...

Have you signed up to make and serve cookies for fellowship time after church on Sunday? These people have:



March 6—Open

March 13-Jill Green

March 20—Pat Howell/Pat Dobry

March 27—Open

Thank you for participating and making our after worship time a delicious time together!

Flower Ministry

Our new flower calendar can be found on the bulletin board in the church narthex. Please sign-up to provide flowers for our Sunday services. Please don't forget that there are also seasonal bouquets now that have been pro-

vided by the Presbyterian Women for you to use when sponsoring a Sunday for flowers. Thank you for participating in this ministry and making our church beautiful and appealing!



Circle Meetings

Good Morning Circle will be meeting on March 2nd at 9:00 a.m. at the church.

Linda Johannes and Georgia Heckman are Hostesses.

Serendipity Circle will be meeting on February 2nd at 1:30 p.m. with Marcia Boots as Hostess

C.T. Will meet on March 16th with coffee at 9:00 a.m. followed by the meeting at 9:30 a.m. Hostess is Helen McConnell.

March Birthdays

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

March Anniversaries

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

"A wedding anniversary is the celebration of love, trust, partnership, tolerance and tenacity. The order varies for any given year."

Next month Presbyterian Women will be having their annual Spring Rummage Sale. Please keep them 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!



(HILDREW'S MINISTRIES

Children and Youth News — March 2016

Wow! We are entering the third month of 2016 already! Thank you to Hannah Weisgerber who instructed the children in the elementary classroom in February. Gayle Redecker is going to teach again in March. A special thanks goes out to Gayle for volunteering to teach a second month this Sunday School year.

The Lenten "Secret" Pals Ministry started Valentine's Day, February 14th. What an appropriate time as the sponsors share their love for the children of our congregation through this ministry each year. This annual ministry will conclude with a Lenten Pal Luncheon on Sunday, March 20th, 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. The last activity the children have in March will be an Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School on March 27th.

A teacher is still needed for April for the Elementary Classroom. If you can help, please contact Barb Kendle (762-1679), or the church office.

It's time to start thinking about attending church camp this summer. The church is starting to receive summer camp information. Both Camp Rock, just outside of Bridgeport, NE, and Highlands Camp in Colorado, have sent information. If your child/children would like to go to church camp this summer, please let Barb Kendle or the church office know. Camp registrations usually need to be in around the first part of May. Camp Rock has special "early bird" discounts for **before** April 1st registrations and **before** May 1st registrations. 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 used for camp scholarships.

The CYM Team will meet next, as part of the Spiritual Formation Team and Outreach Team, on Sunday, March 6th, in the Conference Room following worship and fellowship. Please feel free to join us.

March 2016 - Lenten Luncheons for the Christian Community

Our luncheon theme for 2016 is *Marks of Discipleship*. These meals take place on Thursdays at Noon, followed by a devotion led by one of the leaders of our churches in Alliance. Suggested donation is \$5 and all are welcome. Come enjoy and nurture the gift of 'community in Christ'. And "thank you" to all who prepare these meals and messages for the Christian community in Box Butte County.

Lenten Luncheons — 2016

March 3—First Presbyterian Church
March 10—Holy Rosary Catholic Church
March 17—Alliance United
Methodist Church



FROM THE MISSIONS TEAM...

We are so appreciative to you, our church family, for the wonderful support you gave us by attending our tea party and buying our cookies. Our team had so much fun and fellowship in hosting this event that we are considering doing it annually. Yes indeed, the First Presbyterian Church of Alliance Nebraska has a "Heart for Mission" and we are able to help sponsor Rachana, who is proclaiming Jesus Christ, as she ministers in Nepal to her fellow countrymen. May we also have a united heart in keeping mis-

sionaries throughout the world lifted in prayer, that the Word of our Lord and Savior reach all ears, and that we too, be "fishers of men."



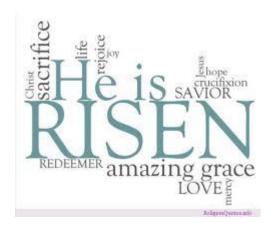
SpringForward	Don't forget to set your clocks	ahead 1 hour	Saturday Night March 12th.	
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March 2016

Sat	ın	12 -8:00 Men's Life Breakfast	19	26	We live and die; Christ died and lived! ~John Stott
Fri	4	11 -12:00 Noon Hilltoppers	18	Good Friday 12:00 noon-3:00p Church Open for Prayer and Meditation	We live and died and
Thu	3 -9:00 Women of Faith -6:00p Living Stones -12:00 noon—Lenten Luncheon at First Presbyterian	10 -9:00 Women of Faith -6:00p Living Stones -1:30p Memorial Team Meeting -12:00—Noon-Lenten Luncheon Holy Rosary Church	17 -9:00 Women of Faith -6:00p Living Stones -12:00 Noon—Lenten Luncheon Alliance Methodist Church	24 - 9:00 Women of Faith -7:00p Maundy Thursday Service	31 -9:00 Women of Faith -6:00p Living Stones
Wed	2 -9:00 Good Morning Circle at the Church L. Johannes/G. Heckman Hostesses -1:30p Serendipity Circle at the Church M. Boots Hostess	9 - 7:00p Choir Practice	16 -9:00 C.T. Meeting H. McConnell Hostess	23 -7:00p Choir Practice	30
Tue	1-6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads -9:00 Missions Meeting	6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads -6:30 Trustees Meeting	15 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads	-6:30 Early Morning Study -7:00p Choir Practice Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads CHIMES DEADLINE	29 -6:30 Early Morning Study Group -9:00 EWG at Crossroads
Mon		7 -12:45p Communion Crossroads and Highland Park	14 - 7:00p Session Meeting	21	28 -11:30 Ladies Lunch at Arbys -6:30p Prayer and Worship Meeting
Sun	alle Wig	6 Don't Forget Lenten Pals -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	13 Doves Sunday Don't Forget Lenten Pals -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship	20 -8:00 Morning Star Bible Study -9:00 Adult Bible Study -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship -11:45 Deacons Meeting	27 Resurrection Sunday -7:30 Sonrise Service -8:00-9:30 Easter Breakfast -9:50 Choir Practice -10:30 Worship

First Presbyterian Church 515 Emerson Avenue P.O. Box 396 Alliance, NE 69301

Return Service Requested



March 2016

Thoughts for the Journey...

Bless to Be Blessed -Dr. David Jeremiah

I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you.

Genesis 12:3a

NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is made up of 28 member nations with 37 other nations involved in NATO programs. NATO was formed in 1949 to defend its members against attacks by nonmembers. The basic idea of such a coalition is: Any attack on one is an attack on all.

God's covenant with Israel is similar. God will bless all nations who bless Israel and will curse any nation that curses Israel. The ancient nations that attacked Israel have long since been covered over by the sands of time. It is no coincidence that America has been the most blessed and prosperous nation on earth while being the chief ally and defender of Israel since her statehood in 1948. The promises of God regarding His relationship with Israel stand as a stark warning to any nation that chooses to be the enemy of Israel. It would behoove America and all nations to stand beside God's chosen people and pray and act for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).

Israel is the most persecuted nation in human history. Every Christian (who desires God's blessing) should be a blessing to the Jews.

"I am proud of my part in the creation of this new state. Our Government was the first to recognize the State of Israel."

President Harry Truman