**From the Pastor –**

**First Press**

February – March 2023

**First Presbyterian Church**

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My fellow believers in Christ,

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; don’t rely on your own intelligence. Know him in all your paths, and he will keep your ways straight.” Proverbs 3:5&6**

These verses were among the first that I ever memorized and in a lot of ways they helped define my life as a young adult. I still remember my Sunday school teacher going over it week after week. Making us recite it over and over again till we had it ingrained in our heads. I had no idea that it would be written on my heart as well.

There is a deep importance to knowing, understanding, and memorizing scripture. One, it helps us to know God and his plans better. Reading scripture gives us glimpses into God’s character and reveals his plan and love for us. Two, knowing scripture gives us and advantage to overcoming Satan and temptation in this world. Three, we are called to keep each other accountable to the word and the truth. This even goes for pastor’s, there are plenty of false teachers out there. The only way to weed out which ones speak truth or lies is to have a knowledge of scripture.

Now back to the verse. We put our trust in Christ well what does that mean exactly? Trust itself means we have a firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something. In a lot of ways, it also means that we make God the trustee of our heart, mind, and soul, meaning we give up ownership to him acknowledge Him as having our best interests at heart and will act on our behalf. When we put our trust in God it’s not a one-time deal. It’s a continuous cycle of every day saying: **“God I will put my trust in you. I will not rely on what I think is right or good but trust that your will is better than mine, your plans are better than anything I can come up with.”**

This verse has been a theme in my life up to this point and that isn’t go to end any time soon. This year join me as we put our trust in Jesus Christ, our creator, redeemer, and sustainer. We will follow the path that has been made straight in this ministry and in our lives.

Blessings,

Robert Brooks

**Session Report**

Session held its regular meeting on December 16th (via Zoom) & January 11th in the Campbell Library

**January 29th**

Annual Congregational Meeting & Pie Auction

**Communion Dec. 4th**

70 were served

Next communion

Will be February 5th

**Funerals**

Luella Shultz

(Service to be announced)

**Camping Update**

Camp is looking for summer staff if interested contact Jason at director@rimrock.camp

Start thinking about going to camp this summer!

Youth Rally will be held at Rimrock this year and is March 24th-March 26th.

Grades 6th-12th are invited to come and join us!

Rally is doing a service project through Love inc. making blankets for those in need. If you wish to donate materials, please contact the Pastor.

**Special Thanks** to everyone who had a part in working on refinishing the Choir Loft. It looks amazing!

**PW News**

PW met to discuss where our charitable donations were to be given. PW members decided we would update the Children’s Church Activity bags. It is an important ministry that we provide for our congregation. Discussion was held on having other activities like movie night, craft day, and making freezer meals for the shut-ins. On February 20, we will be hosting the monthly birthday party at the Good Samaritan Center. Women’s Bible Study will be held the third Wednesday of the month. We hope to see many of you there as it is a great time of learning about the Bible and having fellowship with each other. We will also be in charge of the July 5 blood drive.

 We still need a co-chairman. Please consider volunteering for this position as it is an important one if we want to keep our PW going.

*The Lord will give grace and glory.*

*Psalm 84:11b*

 Dawn Haar,

Chairman

**Sanctuary Choir Report**

We of the choir are grateful to have had yet another year of coming together in song. Despite the upheaval at the front of the sanctuary, the choir carried on as though nothing was changing, though their particular places in the choir were under long-needed renewal of the entire choir portion of the sanctuary. No one complained with even the tiniest peep, though at times they had to seat themselves in various pews from which they would gather to sing at the front of the table. At the Christmas Eve service they even found themselves standing between the piano and the front pew, which wasn't a bother, they said, at all; they carried on, singing two anthems, and their music lost nothing of its beauty at all.

Our choristers do benefit immensely by the true camaraderie among them. Nothing ever takes that away from them. Practices downstairs keep us going--working and enjoying one another's company.

With true commitment to the music and the singers,

Janice Palmer

**Bell Choir**

The bell choir will not be practicing until fall, but some members will be working on pieces suitable for performance on the bell tree. We are looking for new members, so please consider ringing with us! Contact any bell choir member or the director. Thank you.

Ray Caffee, director.

**Christian Education**

“We love because God first loved us.” 1st John 4:19

The Sunday School Christmas Program, including “O Christmas Tree” was presented during worship on December 11th. Many thanks to Laura Duxbury, Kelly Wagner, Susan Jones, and to the Sunday School teachers for all their work preparing, running practices, providing snacks, and making treat bags which the kids received after the program. Everyone did a fabulous job!

The Preschool through 5th grade students meet Sunday morning after church and are learning about trusting God, offering grace to others rather than judgement, and praying and acting how Jesus taught us. This group will be singing in church on February 19th and again on April 2nd, Palm Sunday.

The Junior and Senior youth groups meet Wednesday nights at the church. They are working on Luke 6:20-23 as well as going through the beatitudes and changing our attitudes. Both groups have around 9-10 kids every Wednesday. Will Jones will be helping with the Junior group this Spring and Pastor Brooks fills in for the Senior group as needed.

The Senior group was responsible for the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. There were many comments on how beautiful it was. This group also sold cheese at the Farm and Home Show January 20th and 21st. A big thanks to everyone who helped with this.

The Junior group led the Sunday school students in making ornaments for the fellowship hall tree. They also took a trip to go ice skating where fun was had by all.

Adult Sunday School continues after church in the library and welcomes anyone who would like to join.

This February we will once again have our student greeters and ushers. Please see the attached schedule and find a replacement if the day doesn’t work.





Sunday School Christmas Program

It is time to start planning for Vacation Bible School. Kelly Wagner is our chairperson for this. Please let her or Cecilee Miner know if you are interested in helping in any way.

**Our Sunday school teachers and helpers do a fantastic job preparing and presenting lessons for the youth and adults in our church. We are grateful for their dedication and hard work for the ministry of Jesus Christ.**

**Submitted by Cecilee Miner**

Junior Group Skating!

**February Birthdays**

**2—Travis Anderberg**

**4—Ellen Kay Wagner**

 **O’Leary**

 **Caiden Kruml**

**5—Matt Wagner**

**6---Jennifer Runge**

 **9—Kagan Runge**

 **Teagan Foreman**

**12—Chelsea Droz**

 **Corey Resel**

**13- Rose Weaver**

**14- Seth Rombough**

**16 – Chasity Selting**

**17 – Chris Kruml**

**18- Sheila Hancock**

**19- Lyle Williams**

**21 - Jody Speck**

 **Arielle Miner**

**27- Quinnley Miner**

**28 – Sydney Johnsen**

**February Anniversaries**

**10- Kelly & Matt**

 **Wagner**

**12—Lyle & Pam**

 **Williams**

 **Andrea & Bertin**

 **Flores**

**16—Philip & Phyllis**

 **Testerman**

**March Birthdays**

**February Birthdays**

**2—Travis Anderberg**

**4—Ellen Kay Wagner**

 **O’Leary**

 **Caiden Kruml**

**5—Matt Wagner**

**6---Jennifer Runge**

 **9—Kagan Runge**

 **Teagan Foreman**

**12—Chelsea Droz**

 **Corey Resel**

**13- Rose Weaver**

**14- Seth Rombough**

**16 – Chasity Selting**

**17 – Chris Kruml**

**18- Sheila Hancock**

**19- Lyle Williams**

**20- Casey Schultz**

**21 - Jody Speck**

**22—Dee Lewis**

 **Arielle Miner**

 **Luella Schultz**

**27- Quinnley Miner**

**28 – Sydney Johnsen**

**February Anniversaries**

**10- Kelly & Matt**

 **Wagner**

**12—Lyle & Pam**

 **Williams**

 **Andrea & Bertin**

 **Flores**

**16—Philip & Phyllis**

 **Testerman**

**21—Casey & Luella**

 **Schultz**

**26—Robb & Kim**

 **Johnson**

 **1 - Tiffany Hofer**

 **Janice Palmer**

 **Dwan DeGeest**

 **2 - Brooke Jones**

 **Florine Henning**

 **3 -Chad Stevens**

 **Lauryn Stevens**

 **4 – Bryleigh Resel**

 **Ollie Wagner**

 **5 - Jordyn Pugh**

 **Xavier Hargens-Flores**

**9 – Kristen Moss**

**10 – Landon Tanner**

**11 - Tara Haar Brouwer**

 **-Leo Wieseler**

**12 - Larry Blaseg**

**13 – Gordon Gross**

**16 - Teresa Eschenbaum**

**18 - Greg Haar**

 **Wyatt Strasburg**

 **Shannon Speck**

**19 - Rosemary Moeller**

**21 - Jaime Gard Hall**

**26 - Doug Fritzsche**

**27 - Charlene Beckett**

 **Will Jones**

 **28 - Beth Fischer**

**March Anniversaries**

**25-Chris & Christina**

 **Kruml**

**USHERS**

**February: Mike**

**Edwards & Stephanie Edwards**

**March: Dave & Jean Johnson**

**DEACONS**

 **Feb: Julie Taylor &**

 **Andrea Hargens Flores**

**March: Sarah DeHaai &**

 **Carolyn Rediger**

**GREETERS**

**Feb. 5: Bertin & Andrea Flores**

 **Jr. Liliana, Sophia, Flores**

 **Jr. Ushers Laura & Justin Evans**

**Feb. 12: Sabrena Brooks**

 **Jr. Ezra & Ezekiel Brooks**

 **Jr. Ushers Cassie VanDerWerff &**

 **Heather Resel**

**Feb. 19: Cecilee Miner**

 **Jr. Quinnley Miner &**

 **Haistyn Huss**

 **Jr. Ushers Haylie Huss &**

 **Arielle Miner**

**Feb. 26: Kevin Hofer**

 **Jr. Corbin Kruml & Blake Hofer**

 **Jr. Ushers Grace Hofer &**

 **Ruby Carder**

**Mar. 5: James & Kenzy Waldrop**

 **Jr. Emmet & Addisyn Lindgren**

 **Jr. Ushers Briggs & Kagen Runge**

**Mar. 12: Lance DeHaai**

 **Jr. Bennett DeHaai &**

 **Xavier Flores**

 **Jr. Ushers Cole &**

 **Mark Cavenee**

**Mar. 19****: Brooke & Will Jones**

 **Jr. Rya Wagner &**

 **Vaelynn Welk**

 **Jr. Ushers Shaylee &**

 **Kaihlyn Anderberg**

 **Mar. 26: Chelsea & Taylor Droz**

 **Jr. Vivienne & Nora Droz**

 **Jr. Ushers Cody &**

 **Carter Fanning**

**Sunday School Greeter and Usher List 2023**

 **Greeters** **Ushers**

Feb. 5 Liliana & Sophia Flores Laura & Justin Evans

Feb. 12 Ezra & Ezekiel Brooks Cassi Vanderwerff & Heather Resel

Feb. 19 Quinnley Miner & Haistyn Huss Haylie Huss & Arielle Miner

Feb. 26 Corbin Kruml & Blake Hofer Grace Hofer & Ruby Carder

Mar. 5 Addisyn & Emmitt Lindgren Briggs & Kagen Runge

Mar. 12 Bennett DeHaai & Xavier Flores Cole & Mark Cavenee

Mar. 19 Rya Wagner & Vaelynn Welk Shaylee & Kaihlyn Anderberg

Mar. 26 Viviene & Nora Droz Cody & Carter Fanning

Apr. 2 Nolan & Layne Heasley Brody Heasley & Brecken Anderberg

Apr. 9 Adrian & Adalie Winter Ian & Eric Speck

Apr. 16 Hadlee & Harper Duxbury Oliver Fritzsche & Landon Tanner

Apr. 23 Tyson Vanderwerff & Jake Pugh Jaycee & Jordyn Pugh

Apr. 30 Lawson & Ollie Wagner Landon Wagner & Davin Nelson

May 7 Corbin Kruml & Blake Hofer Carter & Caiden Kruml

May 14 Quinnley Miner & Layne Heasley Ben Wangsness & Tanner DeHaai

***If you cannot be here on your designated Sunday, please trade with someone or find a replacement. Please let Patty or Cecilee know of the change.***