

First Press

April – May 2023

First Presbyterian Church
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From the Pastor –

Dear Friends, brothers, and sisters in Christ,

I sit down and write this and I kind of put this expectation on myself that it has to be this grand revelation and inspire meaning and hope in the lives of my readers, but the truth is, that is not me. I don't have the capability to write eloquently or the charismatic nature to inspire others. All I can do and all I hope to do is lead others, walk with you as we explore this faith together. I shouldn't put toxic expectations on myself and be little myself because I don't have those particular gifts or talents. I need to remember that those gifts are just a part of who I am and help me to interact with the body of Christ. When I need to remember this, I look at passages like 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 & 12-13

⁴There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

¹²The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So, it is with the body of Christ. ¹³Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and

some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.”

Our gifts, talents, the things we claim make us unique are from one Spirit. We are one body meant to work together for a singular purpose, but we let fear or insecurity dampen our gifts. We bury and hide them for fear that others may laugh or ridicule us. We live in a harsh world that likes to stomp us down like a nail being hit with a hammer.

We are meant to use these gifts in service to God and others, this is meant to be a joyful experience. We share our talent and lift each other up. We raise up the parts of us considered weakest and God shows us their strength. Imagine if we did this! If we celebrated each other and encouraged one another in our faith, our talents, and abilities. If we stopped looking at each other as less than or weaker but worked with them as the body is meant to work together!

Blessings to you!

Pastor Robert Brooks, CRE

SESSION REPORT

Session held its regular meetings on February 8th in the Campbell Library & March 15th (via zoom)

Communion

62 were served communion on Sunday, February 5th

Next communion will be April 2nd.

Maundy Thursday will be held at our church, with communion on Thursday April 6th @7pm.

Good Friday Services, Friday, April 7th @12pm (noon) at our church.

Baptism

Hazel Joyce Stevens
daughter of
Kayla and Travis Stevens

PW News

On February 20th the PW members hosted the monthly birthday party at the Good Samaritan Center. Carol Skinner provided the entertainment with her wonderful whistling while Sue Jones, Nancy Williams and Dawn Haar served cherry poke cake with coffee, hot chocolate, and tea. PW members updated the Children's Church Activity bags on March 25th and a new colorful children's hall tree was ordered to display the bags. It is an important ministry that we provide for our congregation. April 22nd we will be having our Annual PW Workday from 9:00 to 12:00. We will be working on cleaning various areas of the church (kitchen, storage room, windows,

sanctuary, etc.). There will be sign-up sheets posted for those areas. Women's Bible Study is held the third Wednesday evening of the month at 8:00 pm downstairs. There will be no Bible Study June, July and August and will resume in the Fall. 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. PW will be in charge of the LifeServe Blood Drive July 10, 2023, that will be held in our Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 2:30. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please let Shar or Dawn or know.

A BIG THANK YOU to the Heasley Family for the beautiful blinds in the kitchen and the spectacular clock in the fellowship hall in memory of their mother Bonnie. What a great addition!

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.

"Nothing Is Impossible With God" Luke 1:37

Blessing,
Dawn Haar
Chairman

Sanctuary Choir Report

The Sanctuary Choir chose to sing music in a particular order during the weeks of Lent and Easter. We chose for each week an anthem that reflects scriptures from Jesus' passages, beginning with His serious conversations with His family and His followers and their responses to his certain crucifixion.

Each weekly anthem reminded us of another event moving toward Jesus' inevitable death. At last, Palm Sunday and Jesus' truly triumphal entry into and through Jerusalem--and finally His death on the cross. Easter Sunday brought us to the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, and the following Sunday morning heard us singing one more familiar Easter anthem.

One more note: When summer arrives, we will hope to convince soloists or small groups to offer, any Sundays from June through August, special music during worship. The music of the church has always been a notable element of our worship. We hope that some of you might consider volunteering for this important component of ministry.

Janice Palmer

Director of Music

Christian Education

"All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the prosperity of your children." Isaiah 54:13



The Sunday school students have been working hard on three songs to sing in church on Palm Sunday. March lessons included learning about how Jesus is the Messiah and that he calls us to forgive. April lessons find us learning about a Palm Sunday parade and how Jesus has Risen! Junior high and high school students are also focusing on Easter lessons. The high schoolers completed a study on relationships.

A special thanks to all the teachers who have planned and taught lessons over this very long winter! We look forward to the promise of spring and all the excitement that brings the students.

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Spring schedule:

April 2: Palm Sunday – Sunday school students will meet in the fellowship hall before church to march in with **palm branches**. **Fish banks** are due that day too. Sunday school students will **sing** during church.

April 6: Maundy Thursday services at our church with the Methodists at 6pm.

April 7: Good Friday service at our church at noon with the Ministerial Association.

April 9: Easter – There will **NOT** be Sunday School, instead we will have an **Easter breakfast** before church.

April 30: High School Graduates will be honored in church with a time for fellowship following. We will also honor **Christian Education** leaders this day.

May 14: Confirmation Sunday. There will be fellowship following church to honor the confirmation class. **This will be the last day of Sunday School.**

May 17: Last night of Wednesday classes.

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Congratulations to the 2023 High School Graduates!

Briggs Runge
Ruby Carder



On April 30 we will be honoring them during church with a reception to follow. **Everyone is welcome to attend.**

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Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2023!

Tanner DeHaai
Grace Hofer
Caiden Kruml
Brody Heasley



On May 14 we will be confirming and honoring them during church with a time of fellowship to follow.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be at the Catholic Church this year.

Dates: June 19-22

For children from age 4 to those just finishing 4th grade

All kids 5th grade and up are encouraged to be group leaders.

VBS Committee chairperson: Kelly Wagner

We still need a new co-chair. Please consider volunteering for this opportunity!

Any adult volunteers who can help through the week with games, preparing snacks, etc. please get in touch with Kelly.



Birthdays in April

- 1 - April Durow
2 - Mike Blaseg
4 - June Anderberg
 Johnathan Taylor
 James DeGeest
 Gwen Johnson
5 - Andrea Hargens-Flores
 Nicholas Johnson
6 - Arlene VanDerWerff
 Travis Foreman
8 - Laura Evans
10- Lynn Blaseg
12 - Sarah DeHaai
13 - Phyllis Testerman
14 - Chelsea Pugh
 Elizabeth Steptoe
15 - Haylie Huss
 Kelly Wagner
16- Stephanie Edwards
17- Troy Beckett
18- Grant Rediger
21- Hannah Droz
24- Mike Mentzer
 Storm Johnsen
 Evan Wieseler
28- Bruce Jones
 Rya Wagner
30 –Maralyn Carder

Anniversaries in April

- 20- Lance & Sarah DeHaai
23- Gordon & Barbara Slunecka
27- Richard & Becky Nelson
30-Tammy & Gordon Gross

Deacons for April

Pam Heasley & Jan Winter

Birthdays in May

- 1 - Chloe Miner
2 - Charlotte Taylor
3- Angie Arbogast
6- Justin Fanning
7- Shane Bertsch

- Kay Foreman
Lawson Wagner
8- Sue Jones
9- Suzy Blaseg
13- Lee Brian Jones
14 – Robert Brooks
 Ezra Brooks
15- Travis Heasley
 Alexis Johnson
16 –Lori Resel
17- Christy Palmer
 Vivienne Droz
18- Pam Heasley
20- Shaylee Anderberg
24-Padyn Scheer
23 –Cassi VanDerWerff
26- Claudia Rombough
 Kenna Nelson
28- Nancy Williams
 Cheryl Snyder
30-Rhys Caffee
31- Rich Strasburg
 Tony Moss

Anniversaries in May

- 1- Shannon & Jody Speck
5 - Evan & Shelby Wieseler
12- Warren & Carole Skinner
 Jeff & Pam Heasley
19 - Bruce & Jennifer Jones
28- Brett & Roxanne Stevens

Deacons for May

Sandra Holt & Jean Johnson

Greeters for April-May

Apr. 2

Travis & Jill Heasley
Stud-Nolan & Layne Heasley

Apr. 9

Jan & Brian Winter
Stud-Adalie & Adrian Winter

Apr. 16

Clay & Laura Duxbury
Stud- Hadlee & Harper

Duxbury

Apr. 23

Rusty & Jill VanDerWerff
Stud-Tyson VanDerWerff & Jake
Pugh

Apr. 30

Kelly & Matt Wagner
Stud-Lawson & Ollie Wagner

May 7

Kevin Hofer
Stud- Corbin Kruml & Blake Hofer

May 14

Cecilee Miner
Stud-Quinnley Miner & Layne
Heasley

May 21

Dee & David Sivertsen

May 28

Sandra Selting

Ushers for April

Kevin Hofer & Greg Haar

Student Ushers

Apr. 2-Brody Heasley & Brecken
Anderberg
Apr. 9-Eric & Ian Speck
Apr. 16-Oliver Fritzsche & Landon
Tanner
Apr. 23-Jayce & Jordyn Pugh
Apr. 30—Landon Wagner & Davin
Nelson
May 7-Carter & Caiden Kruml
May 14: Ben Wangsness & Tanner
DeHaai

Ushers for May

Jeff & Peggy Meyer
Brian & Jan Winter