

First Press

February 2022 - March 2022

First Presbyterian Church

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From the Pastor's Study

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is essential to human well-being. We all need hospitality; we need to receive it and we need to give it. The claim that only by sharing can we experience wholeness applies to hospitality as well. Jesus asked his disciples, "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your sisters and brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?" (Matt. 5:46-47). Luke adds, "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked (Luke 6:35). The church has drawn the quite logical conclusion that we are to share with *all* people.

Being in relationship with God and with others is integral to human wholeness. Being able to be hospitable with others is our grateful response to the hospitality of God. Hospitality becomes for the Christian community a way of being the sacrament of God's love in the world.

There is also in hospitality a complex dance between recognizing our own need, ministering to those in need and recognizing their ministry to us. Hospitality is done not simply out of duty. We are empowered by offering hospitality to others; we realize that we are enriched by those others as well. We recognize our own need, and that helps us to realize that respect is not minimized by homeless-

ness or need. We see that we have needs that are disguised by our own material abundance. The perspective that hospitality offers on material possessions and simplicity of lifestyle is also a freedom from over identifying our worth with our status of any kind. Eating together is a concrete symbol of this. It expresses the basic worth of each person and individualistic in our thinking that we fail to appreciate activities that build community. We may not understand how important community is for giving us life. Perhaps hospitality is such a practice. We can appreciate its value for our well-being by noting that it creates community and that hospitality is best sustained by communities. Those communities allow us to blossom and grow and witness to the world. They might even give us a glimpse of what the kingdom might look like.

Hospitality is making room for others. As we welcome others into our rooms, houses, or backyards, we find that community begins to develop. We have more, we receive more, we share more, and rather than being diminished we build up community. Being in relation with others is where we live more deeply than what we own or who we are, Being in life together with God and the word is our home. Hospitality is finally a live-giving practice; it helps to create communities where both host and guest are recognized and affirmed. In breaking bread together, we begin to experience God's energy.

Peace be with you, Janice Palmer

SESSION REPORT

Session held its regular meetings on
December 14, 2021 and January 12, 2022
in the Campbell Library

Communion

served 70
on December 5th

Funerals

Sally Resel December 6, 2021 Bernie
Huisman January 8, 2022

Welcome new Elders:

*Mike Runge
Dee Sivertsen*



PW is going strong. We are serving funeral lunches again. If you get a call to help with one –either working at them or furnishing food, please do so if you are able.

Bible Study has resumed on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Church basement. Please consider joining the group for learning more about the Bible and some great fellowship.

We met in January and decided to condense our funeral groups from three groups down to two groups. We may have

to serve more often, but if gives us more people to contact for help. We also discussed more local projects. Some of these projects include making up to- go meals ahead for those who are ill or in need of them in our Church family and having some activity nights to involve our congregation more. We also plan on making health care kits for people who are in need of them. Please let Charlene or Dawn know if you would be willing to volunteer to chair this project. If you have any suggestions as to what we can do to make our group stronger and more active, please let Charlene Beckett or Dawn Haar know. We are always looking for new activities and ideas. Let's make us an active and productive group again.

Charlene Beckett



The Bell Choir will not be practicing until next fall. We are looking for new members. So please consider ringing with us! Contact any bell choir member or the director. Let's keep this music tradition going!

Thank you,
Ray Caffee, Director

Sanctuary Choir Report

Reaching an opportunity when we could sing one of our favorite anthems took not one, not two, but three Sunday morning efforts. Finally, we were able to pour it on ("I Can Do All Things" -- eventually) and, though our choir numbers were smaller than the numbers we're used to, those who took it on did a great job in spite of some missing voices. Nice work, Songbirds.

We're hoping that the weather would at least be somewhat predictable in the next weeks and months so we can bring out some anthems we haven't yet sung.- Janice Palmer

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

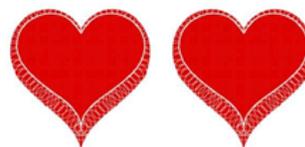
**"But let justice roll down like waters
and righteousness like an ever-
flowing stream"**

Amos 5:24

The Sunday school students presented "A Super Christmas" on December 12th. It's about a group of famous superheroes who discover that while Baby Jesus did come to save the world, he won't be stealing their jobs. Kelly Wagner and Laura Duxbury directed the program and many more thanks for those individuals that helped with music, technology, and organization. The church service and program included all students, preschool through grade 8. Treat bags were sponsored by Mike and Stephanie Edwards and were handed out to the children after the program.

The Farm and Home Show was a huge success!! The Sr. Youth Group cannot thank everyone enough for buying the cheese and also for being instrumental in selling it. What a tremendous help you have been and you are appreciated!

There is a little cheese left. If you are interested, contact Kylie, Kevin or Stephanie.



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.

Attendance and participation in our Christian Education opportunities are encouraged. Spiritual formation of the members of our congregation is part of our ministry here. We ask for your prayers for our teachers and students as they continue to learn and grow together in faith.

Keep a lookout for the greeter & usher list starting on Feb 6th! If you're not able to come on that specific date, let me know.

Submitted by Stephanie Edwards



Sunday School Greeter and Usher List 2022

Greeters

- Feb. 6** Sophia, Liliana & Xavier Flores
Feb. 13 Peyton and Rylie Moss
Feb. 20 Bennett & Tanner DeHaai
Feb. 27 Quinnley & Arielle Miner
Teague Resel
Mar. 6 Corbin and Caiden Kruml
Mar. 13 Adrian & Adlie Winter
Mar. 20 Rya Wagner, Vaelynn Welk

Mar. 27 Ava and Nicholas Johnson
April 3 Brecken & Kaihlyn Anderberg
April 10 Blake and Grace Hofer
April 17 Jordyn & Jake Pugh
April 24 Lawson & Ollie Wagner

May 1 Hadlee & Harper Duxbury
May 8 Nora Droz, Fox Palmer

Ushers

- Justin and Laura Evans
Briggs & Kagan Runge
Aubrey DeHaai, Carlie Selting
Bryleigh Resel, Ruby Carder

Carter Kruml, Davin Bossert
Mark & Cole Cavenee
Owen & Oliver Fritzsche

Alexis & Brooks Johnson
Shaylee & Jaden Anderberg
Eric & Ian Speck
Heather Resel, Jayce Pugh
Ben Wangsness, Landon Wagner

Cody & Carter Fanning
Haistyn & Haylie Huss

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

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

March Birthdays

- 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
- 7 - Bonnie Ehlers
- 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 - Abbie Hill
Doug Fritzsche
- 27 - Charlene Beckett
Will Jones
- 28 - Beth Fischer

March Anniversaries

- 2—Jim & Norma
Waring
- 25-Chris & Christina
Kruml

**OUR GREETERS
AND USHERS**



USHERS

February: Mike Runge &

Stephanie Edwards

March: Dave & Jean Johnson

DEACONS

Feb: Julie Taylor &

Andrea Hargens Flores

March: Charlene Beckett &

Nancy Williams

GREETERS

Feb. 6: Bertin & Andrea Flores

Feb. 13: Tony Moss

Feb. 20: Lance DeHaai

Feb. 27: Padyne Scheer

Mar. 6: Chris & Christina Kruml

Mar. 13: Brian & Jan Winter

Mar. 20: Will & Brooke Jones

Mar. 27: Curt & Kelly Johnson

See previous page for list of student greeters and ushers in Feb. & Mar.

