

In Touch



Sharing Our Gifts Table of Contents:

A Note From Your Pastor	Page 2
Witness News	Page 3
Concerns of the Church	Page 4, 5
Message from F & P	Page 5
Invitation to Russia From FF	Page 6
Live and Learn	Page 7
One Great Hour of Sharing	Page 7
March Calendar	Page 8, 9
Birthdays/Lunch Bunch	Page 10
“Creed” Study	Page 11

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am going to talk about myself a little bit. Some of you may be wondering what is going on with the effort towards getting my doctorate. The truth is that the effort is still going on! With all of my course work completed, the one remaining thing to complete is my thesis. Admittedly I have not been working on it all that much since I completed all my courses in the spring of 2017. But I have just met with my thesis advisor this week who has answered a good many questions that I had. So now I am beginning this last step. My plan is to graduate in May of 2020. Please do ask me about my progress on this from time to time, as it helps to keep me motivated.

The next thing I want to talk about are two things that are happening at the church. The things I am referring to are the movie nights and the Live and Learn, Learn and Live programs. Each of these are doing wonderful things for building community and making people aware of who First Presbyterian is within that community. The beauty of these efforts is that they started with a person who had an idea. It wasn't my idea. It wasn't session's idea. It was a person who had the Spirit lay something upon their heart and then had the courage to speak up and tell others about it. A church that allows new ideas to sprout, grow, and blossom is a church that is living and breathing the Spirit. It makes me very proud to see these things going on. May we always be that church.

Lastly, I wanted to make you aware that some gifts have been given to the church recently. The Women of the Church recently gathered funds for a concrete pad to be poured in the playground. That pad was just recently completed. The preschool children are already enjoying it.

Also a new feature in the pipe organ was given in honor of the choir and all church music makers. The gift was given anonymously. This new feature, when it is installed, will allow Charles to shut off all the sounds on the organ by pushing one button. It is called a "General Cancel" and is something that organist Charles Harris has been wanting for years. With this button Charles will be able to more quickly change the organ sounds between his Offertory music and the Doxology, or from leading the congregation in song at the end of the service to playing his postlude. Once it is installed, I am sure Charles will be very glad to show you how it works.

That's all I have to talk about right now. Please stay healthy during this flu season by washing your hands frequently and by using the hand sanitizer bottles or dispensers in the sanctuary before worship.

God bless, Joe

WITNESS NEWS

Souper Bowl of Caring donations for 2019 were given to the Bethlehem Food Pantry. 61 food items and \$25 were collected. In 2018 Bethlehem Food Pantry passed out 25,145 bags at 3,461 households at a cost of \$10 per bag. Thanks to all who donated!



We enjoyed Donald Marsden's (Frontier Fellowship) visit on Sunday, February 17th! He shared the highlights of his work during the Sunday School hour and an awesome sermon during the worship service. It was interesting to see Donald dressed in the attire of Muslim men that is also worn by Christians in that country. The luncheon was absolutely delicious. Thanks again to all who came.

Our Book Bag Buddies program received a \$2000 grant for 2019 from the Presbytery of New Hope's Hunger Fund. Thanks to Susan Gaylor for applying for the grant!

Pennies for Hunger will be collected on Sunday, March 17th!

We have partnered with Montreat Conference Center and have become a Church Patron. Our donation will help provide insightful speakers for conferences, talented preachers for worship, upkeep of lodges and facilities and endless recreational activities like boating, hiking, Clubs and barn dances.

Did you know that some of our members have ties with Montreat? Some of them are Johnny Mack Walker, Nancy & Joe Sandoval, Denise Hackenburg, Mary Shelby and Tammy & Wally Spragins. If you go to Montreat, be sure to visit the Presbyterian Heritage Center to see Rev. Walkers sculptures.

Reported by Wally Spragins

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CONCERNS OUTSIDE OUR COMMUNITY

- SYRIA and YEMEN, civil war
- SOMALIA, drought, famine, anarchy
- EGYPT and LIBYA with political unrest
- ISRAEL, PALESTINE, GAZA for peaceful coexistence
- IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, security
- USA, war in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan
- NIGERIA, the approximately 100 abducted Chibok school girls
- Syrian Refugees
- Ukrainian people victimized by foreign aggression
- Survivors, families and friends of all types of violence
- The people of the Democratic Republic of Congo as they struggle with an Ebola outbreak, Government instability and famine
- Families separated at the Southern Border
- Victims and relief workers involved with Hurricane Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut and the Earthquake /Tsunami in Indonesia
- Victims of fires in California



On-Going Care

Harry Bright
Bobbie Bright
Sandy Sandoval
Frieda Hayes

**ALL people who
provide on-going
care**

SPECIAL PRAYERS

- We pray for the Children of Clara Hearne and Aurelian Spring Schools and our ministry to them.
- We pray for Stanley White and Littleton Churches during their uncertain times of not having a pastor.
- Carter Roux will be kept safe while teaching in South Korea
- Jeff and Diana Dillard
- Pray for Rev. Kadade and the Evangelical Church in Niger.

Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Priscilla Ricks
Bill Howell
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels
Sally Ray Warren
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil
Ken and Holly Phipps & family
Kevin and Michael
Doug Hayes
David and LaNae Grimes
Sandra Stephenson
Mary Francis Fisher
Harrison West, son of Kent and Carol West
Ellen Burnett
Susan Horrell
Alice Ricks
Debbie Daniels
Delbra Davis, friend of Debbie Powell
Peg Myrick, cancer
Betsy Medlin
B.T. Brown
Tommy Gregory
Triston Arwood



Greetings from the Finance and Personnel Committee

As we begin this year, we wanted to update you on the financials (I know that is not an exciting discussion) but it is essential to our witness and other church commitments.

We have the financial numbers in for January and, unfortunately, we are not starting from a strong income position. As you can see below, our pledged income is already more than \$1,000 below the forecast. Although we don't yet have February/March income we fully expect to be "on target" for the first quarter.

Pledge Income Budgeted:	\$10,310
Pledge Income actual:	\$9,242
Difference:	-\$1,068

Tithe,
Offerings
& Vows



Fortunately, January expenditures are below budget which offsets some of the income shortfall but, as we go through the year, it is imperative that the each pledge commitment is fulfilled. God's blessings are great and please honor the commitments you have made to Him and to our church.

May God continue to bless us all! Jim Small

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian in Roanoke Rapids,

You have likely heard a lot of bad news about Russia in the media lately. Many of the things you are hearing are true. But as always, you're not getting the full picture of what's going on there. Through our eleven years of mission service in Russia we met some of the most wonderful people who follow Jesus. The believers in Russia have always been sharing the good news of Jesus, even during its darkest times.

I'm writing to tell you about the upcoming Frontier Vision Trip to Russia on May 31- June 9, 2019. LJ Jaworski, mission pastor at Third Church, Richmond, VA and I will be leading this trip. The focus of our trip is to meet people who are sharing the gospel with Muslims in Moscow, St. Petersburg and other large Russian cities. We'll meet some of these wonderful brothers and sisters and hear about their work. We'll learn about the complexities of mission in two of the world's mega-cities, and we'll enjoy some of Russia's great cultural heritage.

I hope you'll consider joining us and also that you will pass on news about this trip to other people you know, especially those in your congregation. If you have any questions, please contact me. My cell phone is 804-432-5654.

In the peace of the Lord,

Donald Marsden, Associate Director, Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship



RUSSIA 2019





JOIN US AS WE VISIT MINISTRY PARTNERS WHO ARE SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS WITH CENTRAL ASIAN MIGRANTS.

WE'LL LEARN ABOUT STRATEGIES FOR MISSION IN GLOBAL MEGACITIES, EXPLORE THE REGION'S CULTURAL HERITAGE + DISCOVER HOW GOD IS AT WORK AMONG MINORITY GROUPS LIVING + WORKING IN RUSSIA.

MAY 31-JUNE 9

APPROXIMATE COST: \$2,500 (EXCLUDES AIRFARE)
PAYMENT MADE THROUGH FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

LED BY FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR DONALD MARSDEN + THIRD CHURCH PASTOR OF MISSION LJ JAWORSKI

TEAM SIZE: OPEN TO 8 PEOPLE
TRIP PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ABLE TO WALK 2-3 MILES PER DAY

TO LEARN MORE + BEGIN THE APPLICATION PROCESS, CONTACT DONALD MARSDEN (DMARSDEN@FRONTIERFELLOWSHIP.COM | 804.432.5654)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15
\$250 DEPOSIT DUE WITH APPLICATION

FRONTIERFELLOWSHIP.COM | INFO@FRONTIERFELLOWSHIP.COM | 612.869.0062
7132 PORTLAND AVE SUITE 136 | RICHFIELD, MN 55423-3264





LIVE AND LEARN, LEARN AND LIVE

The last Live and Learn, Learn and Live class will be held on Monday, March 4th, at 7:00 pm and is Spring Gardening by Victoria Neff of Halifax County Extension Service.

Registration forms are available in the office or the Narthex or call the church office at 537-4018, and leave a voicemail indicating your class choices and/or bring your registration form and payment to the church. Payment must arrive at least 48 hours before the class to guarantee your class selections.

The class is \$10 which is donated to our two designated charities – the Boys and Girls Club of RR and the Bethlehem Food Pantry of First United Methodist Church. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with “Live and Learn” in the memo line. Payments may be left in the mail slot in the door to the church office.

Remember, classes are open to all so spread the word to friends and neighbors.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

*One Great Hour of Sharing is the church saying,
“We’ll be there when you need us.”*



Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Your gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, food for the hungry, and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

Calendars and fish boxes will be available in the Narthex. Collection will be on Easter Sunday, April 21st.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 3—Transfiguration of the Lord

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Communion)

MONDAY, MARCH 4

6:00 pm Worship Committee

7:00 pm Live & Learn (Spring Gardening)

7:00 pm Witness Committee

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

9:30 am Morning Circle

Lesson #7 Leader-Grace Fishel

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

12:00 Noon Ash Wednesday
Service

@ First United Methodist Church

6:30 pm Choir



THURSDAY, MARCH 7

7:00 pm Evening Circle @ Loy Bldg.

Hostess-Mary Shelby and Betty Keyes

Lesson #6 Leader-Muzette Kiger

SUNDAY, MARCH 10—1st Sunday in Lent

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

12:00 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Ruby Tuesday

6:30 pm Choir



MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

10:30 am "Creed" Study

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

7:00 pm "Creed" Study

SUNDAY, MARCH 17– 2nd Sunday in Lent

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Pennies for Hunger)

6:00 pm Session

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

12:00 Noon Lenten Lunch @ Rosemary Methodist

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

10:30 am "Creed" Study

7:00 pm "Creed" Study

SUNDAY, MARCH 24– 3rd Sunday in Lent

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

12:00 Noon Lenten Lunch @ First Presbyterian Church

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

10:30 am "Creed" Study

7:00 pm "Creed" Study

SUNDAY, MARCH 31– 4th Sunday in Lent

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Youth Sunday) COMMUNION

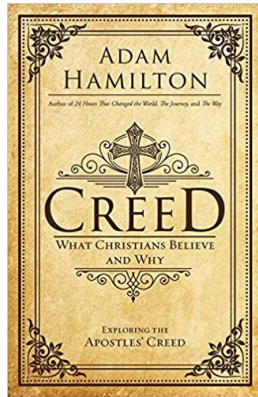
HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO:

Jim Allen	March 2
Betty Keyes	March 5
Mary Shelby	March 6
Tracy Snowbarger	March 7
Brooke Powers	March 8
Susan Barmer	March 9
Beth Brewer	March 9
William Brewer	March 10
Greg Batchelor	March 12
Ann Horne	March 16
Bev Hummel	March 29
Peggy Howard	March 31

FPC Lunch Bunch At RUBY TUESDAY on Wednesday, March 13th



Please join us for a Dutch treat lunch, at 12:00
Noon, each month as we fellowship together!
All are welcome!



Creed: What Christians Believe and Why

will be our Spring Bible Study lead by Rev. Joe Sandoval. The class will meet on Thursdays, March 14, 21 & 28; April 11 & 25 and May 9, at 10:30 am or 7:00 pm.

We're all searching. Sometimes the search is easy: simply type a question and the answer pops up. But sometimes our questions are complicated, and the answers are difficult to see and harder to articulate. How do we discover and examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life? Adam Hamilton believes that some powerful answers are contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs. In this book, Hamilton considers important questions of life, reality, and truth. He explores not only what Christians believe, but also why they believe it and why it matters. Chapters include: God; Jesus Christ; The Holy Spirit; The Church at the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of Sins; and The Resurrection of the Body. Everyone is welcome to join us!



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2-19-19
Dear Church Family,
I don't have words to say
what your Christian friendship
means to me. Since my fall a
few 10th your cards, calls, and
many acts of kindness have been
like seeing the hands, feet, and face
of Jesus in my life. Riddick
and I have been so encouraged
by your love, support. Your prayers
are being answered as I am
healings and feeling better each
day. Mary Hanbury,
Alia (and Riddick)

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
ROANOKE RAPIDS,**

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MARCH 2019

IN TOUCH

