



First News Monthly March

Dear Friends,

Lent

*Lent is a time to take the time
To let the power of our faith story take hold of us,
A time to let the events
Get up and walk around in us,
A time to intensify
Our living unto Christ,
A time to hover over
The thoughts of our hearts,
A time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem
Or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,
A time to touch his robe
And feel the healing surge through us,
A time to ponder and a time to wonder.....
Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!
Ann Weems*

During this season of Lent, that begins on Ash Wednesday, we are invited by Ann Weems to “let the power of our faith story take hold of us.” This, of course, begs the question, “What is our faith story?” The story of our faith is the story of the relentless love of God that stops at nothing to let the world know it is, indeed, greatly loved. Lent affords us the time and the space to reflect upon something of what that love looked like in the life of Jesus Christ.

In Jesus we see and experience love that extends far beyond any limitation we may want to put upon it. Jesus reaches across boundaries and breaks down age old barriers, demonstrating that God’s love knows no bounds. This gives us a fresh new taste of God that inspires us to be as extravagant with our love toward others.

In Jesus we find courage as he faced certain death by walking toward Jerusalem. It would have been easy for him to take the easy option and avoid the fate that awaited him. He could have offered any number of excuses, many of them valid, for not going to Jerusalem, staying home and healing more people. But he chose the hard way and found strength from God to sustain him. This gives us a fresh new taste of God that encourages us to take the difficult path and to know that when we do, we are not alone but strengthened by God.

In Jesus we find cause for rejoicing at the wonder of His resurrection. Death looked to have had the last word on Good Friday. All looked lost and hopeless, as it so often does these days. But death could not, and never will, defeat the power of the love of God to bring new life. This gives us a fresh taste of God that consoles and comforts us in knowing that death and hate do not have the last word, but life and love. Thanks be to God.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Gilman





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HISTORY NOOK

March is Women's History Month which is a perfect time to honor an outstanding organist from our past, Annie Peat-Fink. Annie was hired as organist at age 18 in 1894. She gave organ and piano lessons which continued her legacy after her sudden death in 1917. The church had no full time organist for four years after her death. In 1921, Dr. John Carré, who received his early training on the organ and piano from Annie Peat-Fink, became the church organist and choir director until 1966. Her daughter Margaret Wilber was a music teacher at Franklin Jr. High (now Walden) in the 1930's.

Other accomplishments achieved by Mrs. Peat-Fink were to be selected by the State of Wisconsin in 1901 to play the "mammoth" organ on Wisconsin Day at the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo New York. She was also the first woman allowed to play the great organ in the Mormon Temple at Salt Lake City Utah in 1903. Annie was highly praised by those in attendance, the critics in the press and by the organist of the Temple. She chaired the organ and piano departments of the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, Downer College and the State Teachers College which is now UW-Milwaukee.

The congregation of First Presbyterian was very proud to have such an accomplished organist. The church was greatly saddened by her premature death in 1917 at the age of 41.

Nancy Reeser
Archive Committee

BOOK CLUB



You're invited to join us for the First Presbyterian Book Club meeting on Fri., Mar. 3 at Linnea & John Brooke's home. We gather at 7pm for discussion of the book "Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint" by Nadia Bolz-Weber. After reading "Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People," we were intrigued by this very unconventional pastor and wanted to learn more.

We bring snacks to enjoy while we have as much conversation as an hour or so can accommodate. Everyone is welcome. Please call Linnea to let her know that you are joining us so she can put out enough plates.

Linda Schubert
Book Club

LENTEN SEASON



Begin the journey to the cross

The season of Lent begins March 1—Ash Wednesday. That evening, we will have a service in our Chapel, beginning at 6.30 p.m.

All are welcome to this Service, where we shall prepare ourselves for the journey through Lent to the joy and hope of Easter.

Each Wednesday thereafter there will be “Supper and Substance.” The dates and times are March 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. (in Ihrman Hall). Please bring a simple dish to share.

Pastor Gillian will lead this weekly discussion series, “Longing for Light.”

Lent offers us a time to reflect upon our faith and to focus again on the journey that Jesus took that ended with his crucifixion and ultimately his resurrection. What does this season mean to us and for us? Where do our journey’s take us as we walk in faith? Why did Jesus take the path that he did

Please set aside some time this Lent to worship, to pray, to study and to share fellowship.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1st Nathan Eisner
Elgin Karls
Julia Meiri
- 6th Sadie Carpenter
Sydney Carpenter
John Muir
- 8th James Eastman
Eric Sorensen
- 9th Ginny Holle
Richard Kossack
- 10th Janet Bruning
Thomas Earnest
Bradford Leipold
- 11th Gary Sondergaard
- 13th Linnea Brooke
Barbara Earnest
William Wortley
- 14th Sarah Relaz
JaniceTeichert
- 15th Dugan Nichols
- 17th Patrick Harris
Lilah Holle
Edward Lehmann
Emma Mason
- 18th Zachary Vollman
- 20th Bailee Carpenter
- 23rd Melvin Polzin
- 24th Becky Henn
Jeff Leavell
Kurt Ringwalt
Frank Smith
- 25th Julie Ervin
- 26th LuAnn Hansen
Sarah Savage
- 27th Ava Hendee
- 28th Mary Eastman
Dean LaMarr
- 29th Nicole Relaz
- 30th Douglas Ford
- 31st Myrna Kryger



COMMUNITY MEAL

The next Community Meal that First Presbyterian Church is responsible for will be Tues., Mar. 21. We will need donations of casseroles, milk, fruit, bread, lettuce & salad dressing. You can sign up to bring food and/or help prepare and serve the meal on the poster in Ihrman Hall.

Prep starts at 2:00, then at 4:30 we transport everything over to the site—the Head Start Building, 1032 Grand Ave.

Questions? Call Debbie Yale 639-5004 (h) or 498-8753 (cell).

Debbie Yale
Community Meal
Coordinator



Happy Anniversary!

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- Harold & Mary Ralston
March 7, 1959
- Gary & Connie Wingate
March 10, 1974
- James & Georgia Hall
March 29, 1975

FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry is really becoming an integral part of the Church as we see Church members reaching out in many different ways. Our Sunday School children made Christmas cards to put in the grocery bags in December. Deborah Circle made beautiful Valentine's cards that were put in the bags in February. One Church member is donating hand made soap that she doesn't sell. A Church family donated a big bag of cute stuffed animals. The children who came into the pantry with their parents got to pick out a stuffed animal. It was so heart-warming to see their happy faces as they chose their favorite. All these special touches make our pantry a wonderful Christian Outreach project, and make me so proud to be a member of this loving community.

Our neighbors are also reaching out and helping. We continue to receive bread every Monday from O&H Bakery and Bethany Apartments just donated some peanut butter that they wouldn't be able to use before the use by date. We look forward to Marquette Community garden helping us again this summer.

Tony Aiello is reviewing the federal government guidelines for the pantry so we are prepared for our federal review that will come some time this summer. There are many regulations that need to be adhered to and while we feel we are in great shape, our goal is to be in 100% compliance. We'll keep you posted.

We are still in need of a few volunteers. It only involves a few hours once a month. Sometimes we are very busy and other days things are slow. I've come to really enjoy the slow days as much as the busy ones as its afforded me a great opportunity to socialize with so many Church members.

(continued on next column)

If you are looking for a way to get to know your fellow parishioners better, this is an opportunity to do that as well as be part of a worthwhile community service.

Your continued donations of food items and money enables us to keep all the necessary things on the shelves and provide frequently requested personal hygiene items. Remember, if you want to contribute, but can't shop, you can give monetary donations too. We shop at least once every other week and often times more often.

Karin Roach
Food Pantry Co-coordinator



CHAPEL ART

Our next Chapel Art Exhibit will be a Benefit for our Cuba relationships. We are generating additional funds to be presented to the Pastors during our parish upcoming visit. We took in \$638 in last year's Cuba Benefit Art Exhibit.

If you would like to donate any art work or creative item to this new Benefit, please bring it to the Chapel no later than March 5, marked with your contact information, description, value and minimum price. We will display these donated items at discounts. This show will last until the end of April. All proceeds will go to the Cuba Art Benefit.

For more information, about this Benefit Exhibit, please contact Ellen Cardwell.

NEWS FROM THE SENIOR GEMS AND DEBORAH CIRCLE

Thank you to all who joined us to make valentines in February that were sent to church members who are needing our love and support right now. We made about 35 valentines and some were mailed to members while others were shared with the Food Pantry recipients.

During March, members of both circles will meet for lunch at the Bella Cibo Restaurant, 3751 Douglas Ave., on Thursday, March 9 at 11:00 a.m. A visit to the Belle City Resale LLC next door at 3801 Douglas Ave. to browse through this fun shop may follow the meal for those interested in participating. Please let Ginny or Leah know if you are coming. Also in March, anyone from either group who can help is being asked to either provide a casserole for or assistance at the Community Meal on *Tuesday, March 21. See further instructions for that on the Community Meal sign-up posted in Ihrman Hall.*

Don't forget that we are also in need of people who can assist with preparing the newsletters for mailing each month, which usually happens during the final week of the month. Dates for this are shown on the calendar included with the newsletters.

It has been suggested that both groups, Senior Gems and Deborah Circle, combine and become one group. This new group would keep the same focus as always, to provide opportunities for fun, warmth and friendly fellowship for all who attend. We would continue to meet during the daytime for either more relaxed social get-togethers or providing our help with church doings and responsibilities. We are looking for a catchy yet meaningful name for our group, and at our March get-together will decide on one, so put your thinking caps on.

Remember—our gatherings and outings are open to anyone who wants to come, men and women included!

Youth Mission Trip

This year's **Youth Mission Trip** is scheduled for Sunday, JULY 9 - SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2017.

If you are interested in participating in the youth mission trip this summer, please contact Pastor Gillian as soon as possible.

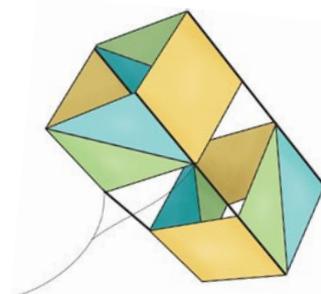
All youth 12 years and older are welcome to come on this trip to South Carolina.



We do yard work, organizing, painting, cleaning, computers and more for a donation to the Summer Youth Mission Trips!

It's the perfect time to get your flower beds into shape. Let the kids do the work for you!

For more information or to schedule an appointment contact Ben Neal at 262-497-6545 or email him at: beneal@hotmail.com



OUTREACH

Join us Saturday, March 25 at 5:00 p.m. in Ihrman Hall for our first **Movie Night!** We'll watch the movie—followed by conversation, reflection and hors d'oeuvres

The Visitor (2007) - Richard Jenkins, Haaz Sleiman, Danai Gurira, Hiam Abbass (1h 44m)



Synopsis: A widowed economics professor at Connecticut College, named Walter, is un-inspired with his teaching, his work on a new book, and his attempt at taking piano lessons to emulate his late wife, who was a classical pianist. He arrives in Manhattan to present a paper at a conference, not really wanting to be in attendance. Going to his in-town apartment, he is startled to discover a young couple living there; they've rented it from a swindler who claimed it was his. The couple, Tarek, a Palestinian-Syrian djembe player, and Zainab, a Senegalese designer of ethnic jewelry, are both illegal immigrants. Walter's initial anger and discomfort with the couple gradually turns to friendship, and Tarek begins to teach Walter to play the djembe. The lives of all three characters are about to be altered by immigration issues, power, love and loss, all tied together by the thread of music.



MISSION COMMITTEE

We would like to thank all of you for another successful Chili Cook Off in January. There were about 60 people attending and enjoying chili and fellowship. We raised over \$500 for the Mission trip to Cuba. A big thank you goes to all of you who brought chili, cornbread and desserts, to the committee members who made this event happen and the Tuesday crew who did the set up for us.

Our next event will be the Cuban Sandwich Fundraiser which takes place on Sunday, March 5, downstairs in the Dining Room immediately following worship. We hope you can join us and enjoy the fellowship and a delicious Cuban sandwich, filled with roasted pork, ham, Swiss cheese, mustard and a pickle on a fresh piece of Cuban bread. The sandwiches will be served with side of rice, beans, plantains and flan for dessert! If you can't stay, you are welcome to take a plate home! A free will offering will be gladly accepted and monies raised will be used for the Mission trip to Cuba.



A letter will be going out to all members in March with information about the three organizations that we are going to support with our Hand of Hope donations this year. The collection will take place during the month of April and a representative from each organization will be speaking to us on the Sundays in April about their organizations.

We thank you as always for your generous support of our mission projects.

Martha Fusco
Mission Committee Chair



DID YOU KNOW

- The smallest kite in the world which actually flies is 5mm high.
- The largest number of kites flown on a single line is 11,284, this record is held by a Japanese kite maker.
- The fastest recorded speed of a kite is over 120 mph. (193 km/h).
- The record for the highest single kite flown is 3801 meters (12,471 ft).
- for a train of kites 9740 meters (31,955 ft.).
- The world record for the longest 'kite fly' is 180 hours.
- Kite flying was banned in China during the Cultural Revolution, anyone found flying a kite was sent to jail for up to three years and their kites destroyed.
- There are 78 rules in kite fighting in Thailand.
- Kite flying was banned in Japan in 1760 because too many people preferred to fly kites than work.
- The airplane is a development of the kite.
- For centuries kites have been used in wars and battles, for signaling, lifting observers, target practice, as barrage kites, dropping propaganda leaflets etc.
- The Chinese believe that when you tilt your head back to look at a kite in the sky your mouth opens slightly, which gets rid of excess body heat giving you a healthy yin-yang balance.
- The Chinese name for a kite is Fen Zheng, which means wind harp. The name is derived from early Chinese kites which used to carry wind musical instruments.
- Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.
- The world-renowned father of aeronautical theory was Sir George Cayley (1721 to 1790) who lived near Scarborough in Yorkshire. He discovered the difference between lift & thrust and invented the steerable tail and rudder. He also discovered the importance of the dihedral angle for stability of flight and knew the importance of a curved wing.
- If a lightweight engine had been invented in Sir George Cayley's time he would have beaten the Wright brothers flight by over 150 years.
- The British scholar Joseph Needham said in his book "Science & Civilization in China", that the kite was the most important scientific device to have come to Europe from China.
- When the Japanese were building some of the early temples and shrines they used large kites to lift tiles and other materials to the workmen on the roofs.
- The Russians used kites to tow torpedoes in 1855 with great accuracy.
- Ancient stories of fire breathing Dragons were probably a windsock type of kite flown by soldiers in the middle ages which had burning tar in the mouth opening to frighten the enemy in battle.
- More adults in the world fly kites than children.
- There is at least one Kite Festival every weekend of the year in some part of the world.
- There are many indoor Kite Festivals.
- Kites have been used for centuries for fishing.
- In Indonesia leaf kites are still used for fishing.
Kites are used for bird scaring, forecasting the weather and frightening evil spirits away.
- It is now thought that the first kites flown over 3000 years ago, were made from leaves.
- The Maori tribes from New Zealand made beautiful birdman kites made from bark cloth and leaves.
- You do not need wind to fly a kite.
- Each year on the second Sunday of October kite flyers in nearly every country of the World unite and fly a kite to celebrate "ONE SKY ONE WORLD".
- People were flying kites 1,000 years before paper was invented.
- Kites have been used for thousands of years to lift offerings and give thanks to the Gods for good harvests, fertility, weather and prosperity.
- There are over 50 million kites sold in the USA every year.
- In 1901 Marconi used a Hexagon kite to transmit the first radio signals across the Atlantic, the kite line was used as the aerial.
- Benjamin Franklin used a kite to prove that lightning was electricity.
- Lawrence Hargrave was an English man who emigrated to Australia where he invented the box kite in 1893.
- In 1847, a young boy won a competition to fly and land a kite on the other side of the Niagara River. They then used the kite line to pull larger cables over the river, enabling them to start work on building the first railway bridge between Canada and the USA..
- Kites have been used in many sea rescues.
- In the Second World War the RAF issued pilots with a 'rescue kit' comprising a dingy and a folding box kite called a Gibson Girl which enabled them to send an SOS message from a portable transmitter with the kite line acting as the aerial.

PARISH NURSE CORNER

“Risks of Falling ~ Even in Your Own Home”



Elderly safety is a considerable problem in the U.S. as millions of seniors go to the emergency room each year due to injuries caused by accidents in the home. Fall are a leading cause of these mishaps. Yet, with proper equipment and knowledge, risks can be cut dramatically.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says one out of every three adults over the age of 65 falls each year. Every 18 seconds an older adult is in the emergency room because of a fall. Falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries. Your private home can be a potential battleground for seniors as they navigate rooms, hallways and stairs.

Here are ways you can help ensure a safer home:

Clear the clutter. This includes countertops, end tables, hallways and beyond. Clutter of all sizes can make for hazards in such places as the kitchen and bathroom.

Get frequent visual exams. Poor eyesight is a leading cause of senior falls, and can make it difficult to navigate your home safely. Check your prescription yearly to make sure it is still accurate.

Equip bathrooms with showers/baths designed for older adults. Since 80% of senior falls happen in the bathroom, seniors can maintain independence longer with the use of walk-in baths built for elderly adults. For instance, a walk-in tub has anti-slip floors, a 4-inch step up, grab bars, anti-scald technology, mold-resistant walls and a shower wand.

Participate in moderate exercise. Staying active is one of the best ways to maintain balance, strength and mobility—as long as you do not overdo it. The CDC suggests Tai Chi or relaxed yoga for balance, and weight-bearing exercise is also helpful because it increases bone density.

Install grab bars throughout the home. The most obvious space demanding grab bars is the bathroom, next to showers, baths, and toilets. Grab bars help you climb stairs safely, traverse long hallways or use the kitchen more easily.

As we begin our Lenten journey, I hope you will experience Christ’s healing peace.

Blessings,

Peggy Taylor, RN, Parish Nurse



MARCH SCHEDULES

HANDBELL CHOIR

Wed., Mar. 1, 8:00 p.m.- Rehearsal
Wed., Mar. 8, 7:00 p.m.- Rehearsal
Wed., Mar. 15, 7:00 p.m.- Rehearsal
Sun., Mar. 19, 9:30 a.m.- Performance
Wed., Mar. 22, 7:00 p.m.- Rehearsal
Wed., Mar. 29, 7:00 p.m.- Rehearsal

CHANCEL CHOIR

Wed., Mar. 1, 6:30 p.m.- Performance
Thurs., Mar. 2, 7:00 p.m.- Rehearsal
Sun., Mar. 5, 9:30 a.m.- Performance
Thurs., Mar. 23, 7:00 p.m.- Rehearsal
Sun., Mar. 26, 9:30 a.m.- Performance
Thurs., Mar. 30, 7:00 p.m.- Rehearsal

THE SANCTUARY

Our Sanctuary will continue to be closed thru Fri., Mar. 10. This will allow the contractors adequate time to paint the ceiling and remove the scaffolding—while keeping everyone safe.

Reminder: The deadline for newsletter articles is listed on the “Calendar of Events” included with each month’s newsletter mailing. April’s deadline will be Wed., Mar. 22 at 12:30 p.m. and the Prep Party is scheduled for Tues., Mar. 28 at noon. Thank you!

