

First Presbyterian NEWS

February 2019

Volume 20 Issue 2

So we are one month into 2019. How are your resolutions working out? Are you losing weight, have you continued exercising more? Those usually rank pretty high on my list. Some years I am so tired of making resolutions and then failing at them that I just don't make any.

What if we had some resolutions for 2019 for 1st Pres? What do we expect from our church, anyway? At the time of this writing, I am reading Francis Chan's Letters to the Church. In it, he lists several things that we think the church should give us:

- A really good service
- Strong, age-specific ministries
- A certain style/volume/length of singing
- Well-communicated sermon
- Big parking lot
- Clean church building
- Coffee
- Childcare

The list could go on and on.

Then he suggests that we look at what God commands from the Church in Scripture:

- "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15.12)
- "Visit orphans and widows in their affliction" (James 1.27)
- "Make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28.19)
- "Bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6.2)

The list goes on and on.

I think I know which criterion Jesus will ask us about when he returns. Chan concludes that "it is imperative that we differentiate between what we want and what God commands. Not that our desires are all bad, but they must take a back seat to what He emphasizes."

So, yes, we are blessed with a big parking lot, a good choir, wonderful musicians to help us make music, dedicated people who help out with hospitality, and a clean campus (thanks, Harold!). Those things are great, but our first devotion should be to those things that God specifically tells us are important. My resolution for this year is that we follow where He leads us.

Pastor Paul



February Anniversaries February Birthdays

4. Don & Carol Adamavich
14. Harold & Judy Kitching
16. Greg & Amy Berglund



Next Newsletter Deadline

February 15, 2019

2. Nancy Lockhart, Renee Lovell
3. Ruth Walter
4. Jim Mokma
5. Bill Heinle, Evelyn Martin
7. Caroline Anderson, Jose Salazar
8. Roberta Doerges, Ray Williams
9. DeeLane Heinle, Gene Irvin
10. Harold Lovell
11. Gary Ellis
17. Suzanne Smith
18. Ida Holst
22. Madison Ahumada
23. Bette Jean Beck
24. Bill Burkert, Donita Godwin, Dick Whittington
26. Carol Oeverndick



Christmas Dinner Update

The response to donating food for the homebound and homeless on Christmas Day was wonderful. Two hundred fifty-five people were served dinner on Christmas Day. My heart leaps with joy for the response. If anyone would still like to help defray some of the expenses for the Christmas dinner, you may make a check out to Great Western Bank, "Annual Christmas Day dinner" at 1330 E Florence Blvd, Casa Grande.

Blessings,
Charlotte Duckett

Caring Ministry

We welcome New Members:

Mark Braybrooks
John & Marlene Grentzer

Roger & Marlene Jones
Merope Ozdener

Noah Rodriguez
Larry & Evelyn Rucas

Please Pray For:

Bob & Bette Beck
Mike Beers
Sherman Bell
Tillie Bott
JD & Cleetis Boyer
Larry Bruckner
Tonya Colett
Gloria Craft
Elmer Cryer
Walt Dahlgren
Emmett Damas

Cindy DeGeest
Jamey Durbin
Faith Ann Farrell
Terry Filloon
Martha Glavin
Joe Horstman
Sally Jahns
Dave Kantrud
Hal Lawson
Cecelia Morris
Randy Neman

Beverly Nichols
Kathy Pinon
Marilyn Powell
Joyce Pretzer
Amy Rowe
Norm Skinner
Ellen Sutton
Heather Thorson
John VanAuken
Everett Waldrop
Frank Westburg



Session Notes

- Larry Pazier and Peter Vogel were approved to represent our church as commissioners for the January joint Presbytery meeting.
- Treasurer Gary Ellis presented the year-end financials, which were approved.
- Congregational Meeting scheduled to be held February 10, after the 11:00 am service. A light luncheon will be provided with Elders present.
- Staff/Elder luncheon is scheduled for February 12 in Room 17 at 12:15 pm.
- An Elder Training Session will be conducted by Brad Munroe March 23.
- Important: The Fellowship Committee needs additional members to help provide refreshments between traditional services.
- Arizona Corporation Commission Renewal Officers to be voted on at the congregational meeting: Larry Pazier agreed to continue as President, Karen Vanderheyden as Vice President and Gary Ellis as Treasurer. Marge Jantz as Director at Large.
- Traditional Worship—Elder Pazier emphasized a serious need for more volunteer Worship Support.
- Elders Bertness and Hehr suggested a change in how we present the weekly service offering. The two center ushers would consolidate the offering and bring it forward for the blessing and then return it to the treasurer in the parlor.
- Nominating Committee will be working on presenting recommendations for new Elders and Deacons for the coming year.
- Next Stated Session meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2019 at 5:30 pm in Room 17.

Respectfully submitted, Clerk of Session, Kay Svedjan

3rd Annual Winter Fest Dinner/Dance



Saturday, March 2, from 5:30 pm—9:30 pm

The Property's Ethington Grand Ballroom
2-Entrée Dinner, Fun, Dancing, & Door Prizes

Tickets will be sold for \$35 per person.

ADVANCE SALES ONLY. No tickets sold at the door.

Tickets on sale from Sunday, February 3, through February 25.

50/50 Raffle tickets will be sold at WFDD.

Contact Larry Pazier at (303) 908-6325 or a member of the Senior Ministry Team for tickets or more information.



Worship

What is February known for? Of course, it's the 14th, Valentine's Day – **LOVE!**

GOD LOVES US and our bible tells us from His words to "LOVE OUR GOD" and to "LOVE ONE ANOTHER". We have heard this in the sermons for a number of weeks. Do we feel it more in February?

We all know Mark 12:20-31: ***"The most important commandment", answered Jesus, is this: 'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, The Lord is one, LOVE the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 'The second is this: 'LOVE your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than this."*** To LOVE OUR GOD is the first and most important commandment. Our Lord sent us a gigantic message here. LOVE is so important in life and He wants us to know that we should LOVE Him above all else.

Yes, we should LOVE our neighbor, whomever our neighbor happens to be. We may not agree with them but we should show LOVE towards them. John tells us that ***"No one has ever seen God, but if we LOVE one another, God lives in us and His LOVE is made complete in us."*** We should show our LOVE to others as we go through our journey and help spread LOVE each and every day.

John also tells us: ***"Dear friends, let us love one another, for LOVE comes from God. Everyone who LOVES has been of God and knows God."*** Yes, we have received LOVE from God and as we receive it so should we share it. Sometimes it's very difficult to accomplish in today's world, but in the long run, wouldn't our world be better off if everyone did? That's His message, we should spread LOVE around.

LOVE !!!!! He wanted to let us know what is truly the most important thing in life itself LOVE. Shouldn't we challenge ourselves in life to focus our lives on not only showing LOVE to our close loved ones but to spread LOVE to everyone who comes into our lives. Let us say a special prayer in worship this month to ask our Lord to grant us the power to share and spread His word of LOVE.



Blessings from your Worship Team



Missions

Hope you all enjoyed the Spaghetti Dinner. Thank you to everyone who participated in any way, from our world renowned chefs to our volunteers. The Missions Team says, "Thank You." We couldn't do it without you.

One more great dinner is coming up in February. On February 16, enjoy another fabulous meal at Robson Ranch to support Seeds of Hope. Great food! Great fellowship! Great auction! See you there.

Goody bags are coming soon, too. Our plan is to give you a specially designed FPC and SOH bag. We will give you a list of items to place in the bag for the homeless. Items we have been collecting all year will be donated separately. FPC/SOH bags will be handed out by SOH.

We are the hands and feet of Jesus.

Seeds of Hope

It's still not too late to join us for our annual dinner at Robson Ranch **Saturday, February 16, 2019**. We will look back together at the success stories of our participants during this past year. Volunteers will share their stories. You have so much in common!!

Thank you to everyone that made our 5K Walk/Run on January 5 a success. We had 128 runners take off on our race course around Dave White Park. Looking forward to an even larger race next year!

Tuesday, April 2, is Arizona's Gives Day for 2019. We have had great support and success these past few years and, with your help, we will have it again! This has become our most successful vehicle in gathering support for SOH. Please share with all of your circles!

The garden is moving slowly, but we hope to plant our first attempt at growing this month. We will start out with row planting with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension assistance that will allow for many different varieties to be grown in the same rows. We hope to get some above ground planters going soon after.

For more information on these events or on any of our ministries, follow us on Facebook, our website www.seedsofhopeaz.com or call our office at 836-6335.

Blessings to All,
Mark



Women's Ministry

February 19th

Room 17

10:00 am

Wendy Lloyd, of the Casa Grande Police Department, will be our guest speaker. She will be speaking on a lot of different topics regarding how we as a church can become more involved to keep our city safe. You may contact Renee Lovell for more information at (252) 567-8072.

There will be a Citizen Police Academy starting February 17 from 6:00—9:00 pm every Tuesday and Thursday at the Police Station. The space is limited, so you will need to sign up by February 8 if you are interested. Call Wendy at 421-8711 ext. 6140 if you have questions or would like to sign up.

Spring Luncheon



Date: Saturday, April 6, 2019

Time: 11:00 am

First Presbyterian Church

702 E Cottonwood Lane

Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Family Life Center

Guest Speaker: Carolyn Larsen

Best Selling Author, Dramatist, and Renowned Speaker

"BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE"

Purchase your ticket today between services at the gazebo
or contact Renee Lovell at (252) 567-8072

Tickets are \$15.00

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<u>1</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>2</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 6:30 AA
<u>3</u> 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Worship	<u>4</u> 9:00 Weight Watchers 1:00 Congregational Life 1:00 Senior Ministry Games	<u>5</u> 10:15 Music Rehearsal 10:15 Senior Ministry Team 3:30 Worship Team 4:30 Praise Team	<u>6</u> 10:00 Women's Bible Study 5:00 Bell Choir 5:00 Pot Luck—Game Night 6:15 Choir	<u>7</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship	<u>8</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA 6:30 Godwin Grace Group	<u>9</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 8:30 Montlure Board 6:00 Montlure Youth Night 6:30 AA
<u>10</u> 8:30 Worship 9:45 Membership Seminar 10:00 Worship 11:00 Worship 12:00 Congregational Meeting	<u>11</u> 9:00 Weight Watchers 1:00 Senior Ministry Games 5:00 Missions Committee	<u>12</u> 10:00 Women's Ministry 10:15 Music Rehearsal 4:30 Praise Team	<u>13</u> 10:00 Women's Bible Study 5:00 Bell Choir 5:45 Fellowship 6:15 Adult Bible Study 6:15 Choir	<u>14</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 4:15 Deacons	<u>15</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 10:00 AA	<u>16</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 9:30 Kairos 6:30 AA
<u>17</u> 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Worship	<u>18</u> 9:00 Weight Watchers	<u>19</u> 10:15 Music Rehearsal 4:30 Praise Team	<u>20</u> 10:00 Women's Bible Study 5:00 Bell Choir 5:45 Fellowship 6:15 Adult Bible Study 6:15 Choir	<u>21</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 3:00 Memorial Committee	<u>22</u> 6:45 Al-Anon 9:30 Presbytery Personnel & Finance Team 10:00 AA 6:30 Godwin Grace Group	<u>23</u> 6:45 AA 7:30 Traffic School 6:30 AA
<u>24</u> 8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship 11:00 Worship	<u>25</u> 9:00 Weight Watchers 1:00 Senior Ministry Games	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> 8:00 Men's Fellowship 3:00 Seniors Early Bird Buffet (Golden Corral) 4:30 Stephen Min 5:30 Session		



Annual Reports will be available to pick up at the Welcome Tables beginning Sunday, February 3. They will also be posted on the church website. We encourage all members to read through the report before the Congregational Meeting on February 10.

Vision Statement:

Belong to God and to each other
 Believe God's word
 Be more like Christ
 Build a better community

Ministry Connection

Accompanist	Ginny Lewis
Bell Choir	Kim Freyermuth, Susan Quintanar
Chancel Choir/Acquire	June Graber
Custodian	Harold Lovell
Funeral Director	Mary Lu Brooks
Nursery Attendants	Jasmin Diaz Geovani Hernandez
Office Manager	Heather McNutt
Organist	Jane Ethington
Pastor	Rev. Paul Elgin
Pastor of Caring Min.	Bill Heinle
Praise Team Director	Kim Freyermuth
Seeds of Hope	Mark Vanderheyden
Sexton	Pete Vogel
Stephen Ministry	Bill Heinle
Trad'l Worship Music	Roberta Doerges
Women's Ministry	Renee Lovell
Youth Director	Kylie Powell

How To Reach Us

Phone: (520) 836-5981

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday

7:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

(closed for lunch 12:30-1:30)

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www.firstpresbyteriancasagrande.com

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianCG)

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Session

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Larry Pazier (Traditional Worship)	larrypays@gmail.com
Karen Vanderheyden (Contemp. Worship)	van.karen16@gmail.com
Reg Wax (Missions)	regwax@gmail.com

Treasurer: Gary Ellis

Clerk of Session: Kay Svedjan

Deacon Parish Assignments

Judy Kitching	Moderator
Terry Sullivan	A-Bo
Jim & Bobbi Antholz	Br-Coo
Larry & Jackie Shinn	Cop-Et
Doug & Darlene Antrobus	Ev-Gre
Ken & Judy Davenport	Gri-Jac
Richard & Peggy White	Jah-La
Kitty Bertness	Le-Mod
Marcey Honodel	Moe-Pic
DeeLane Heinle	Pl-Sch
Renee Lovell	Sci-Thu
Bill & Summer Burkert	Tow-Z