

First Press

April 2018 - May 2018

First Presbyterian Church
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FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

[Jesus said,]"Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded . . . — Mark 10:24-26

They were greatly astounded. Why is that? What is so astounding about the fact that rich people will have trouble entering the Kingdom?

The reason they were astounded is that it was popular belief at the time that rich people were rich because they were favored by God. Rich people were the people God would be most concerned with. So when Jesus came along preaching good news to the poor, it was astounding.

Those of us who have been Christians since childhood sometimes forget how astounding the Gospel is, because we have been hearing it for a long time. God loves poor people? God loves people nobody else loves? God loves sinners? God became one of us? There's hardly anything about the story that isn't astounding. And yet, sometimes we are maybe even bored with the story. We are rarely astounded.

As I write this, Holy Week is approaching. Maybe Easter is approaching as you read it. There is nothing more astounding in all the Gospel than the Easter story. Jesus was dead on Friday, and then, on Sunday morning, he was alive.

In this is our hope. There are so many obstacles to face in our life here. There is so much loss. But all

the trouble, all the heartache, all the frustration and the confusion and the death—yes, even the death—is overcome.

There is no better news anywhere.

It might be good for us to be astounded at all this. I know we have heard it a million times, but it is truly astounding. It is an astounding message of astounding power arising out of a love so astounding we can't really even imagine it.

So it is good that we don't have to imagine it or even to understand it. But by God's grace, we can believe it. And we can be grateful for it. And we can live lives in grateful response to it.

And that would be pretty astounding too.

Blessings,

Brian Jones

From the Secretary's Desk

*The Minister's Calendar for the Church is inside the secretary's office. Feel free to add any information.

**If you are interested in being a greeter, please let me know as we have some open Sundays to fill. We gladly welcome volunteers.

***Please let the office know of any birthdays or anniversaries I am

missing for the newsletter or bulletin. I know I don't have the birthdays for some of the younger ones. Also if you have a change of address, please let tell the office. Thank you.

**** Please remember to get your e-mail address to the office, a session member, or the minister (if you have not already done so.) We do have paper copies available for you to pick up at Church. If you would like to have your newsletter mailed to you, please let us know. Thank you!

SESSION REPORT

Session held its regular meetings on February 7, 2018 & March 14, 2018
8 pm in the Campbell Library

Communion

February 4, 2018 (served 90)

Funerals

Oliver Block 2-3-2018

Gene Shaw 2-26-2018

Ethel Brown 3-19-2018

Are you ready for spring? Green grass, spring flowers, blue skies and sunshine?

May 6-we will be honoring the CE leaders and the High School graduates

May 13- last day of Sunday School
and don't forget "Mother's Day"

May 16-last Wed evening class

May 19-MHS graduation

May 20-SBA graduation

Clerk of Session Shar
Ruhnke

member to contribute a penny for each year of her life.

The funds collected are used for selected humanitarian projects throughout the world. We can be part of that sharing in the work of the Holy Spirit by adding "a penny for each year" in the birthday container of the guest registration stand.

It is not too late!
Phyllis Testerman
Chairperson-Birthday Fund



Reflection on the Light
Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of SD Spring
Gathering will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Miller, SD on Saturday, April 28 , 2018. Registration is \$15.00 from 8:00-9:30.

There will be Mission Displays/Speakers & Communion with Pastor Janice Palmer. Please bring special offerings: Least Coin, Cents-Ability....Bring Necrology Mission Experience: Sue Holloway-Lead Music & Memory: LaJeanne Armstrong- Pierre



Happy Birthday!

Today may not be your birthday, but each of us has one! Presbyterian women on a national level celebrate by asking each

Music Notes



The choir sings through the first Sunday of June (and enjoy singing the anthems for you each Sunday). The comradeship and music make it a joyous undertaking for them. Please consider joining us—if not this spring—perhaps next fall.

With summer being just around the corner, it will be a break for the choir. Once again, we hope to fill the Sundays with special music. If you would like to sing, play the piano, guitar, or any other instrument, just let Janice know. It's great practice for contest pieces and keeping the music going all year long! Think about it for yourself, your child, or combination. We would welcome any small groups who would like to share their talents as well. Just let someone know.



Bell Choir

The Bell Choir resumed weekly practices in January on Wednesday nights at 6:00 following a short Christmas break. We began the year with new instruments—3 octaves of Schulmerich Handchimes, purchased by the church memorial committee, now complement our bells. The handchimes had their debut during worship on February 25 when the hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” was played on handchimes by the choir. Thank you to the committee and those who have contributed to the memorial fund for these beautiful instruments! We also played March 25, and hope to do so a couple of more times before summer recess. The choir welcomes Pete DeGeest as our newest ringer. Please let Ray or any bell choir member know if you would be interested in joining the group.

Christian Education

“For by Grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God.”
Ephesians 2:8

Sunday school attendance pins were handed out during worship in February. **Congratulations and thanks** to the students, families and teachers for making that happen.



The Sunday school students sang during worship in February.

The junior youth group went ice skating. They also went to a movie together.

The senior youth group has been talking about lent and the Last Supper.

Kelby Tracy taught the group a new game.

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Spring schedule:

April 1: Easter – There will be a multiage Sunday school class – ALL students will have class together.

April 22: Talent Show and Supper

Fundraiser hosted by Sr. Youth Group

4:00 show; Supper to follow

May 6: – We will honor our **Christian Education Leaders** during worship. AND we will honor our **HS graduates** on this day also.

May 13: – Last day of Sunday school.

May 16: is the last day of Wed. night class for gr. 6-8.

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2018 High School Graduates:

Jack Jones

Kelby Tracy



On May 6 we will be honoring them during church with a reception to follow. **Everyone is welcome to attend.**

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Submitted by Tyann Jones

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

THE THEME IS: SHIPWRECKED



Vacation Bible School will be at St. Ann Catholic Church this year.

Dates: June 18-23; 1:00-3:30

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

VBS Committee chairperson:
Chelsea Pugh

Our new co-chairperson is Andrea
Mushitz.

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- Lacy Beckett
 - Lynn Blaseg
- 12 – Sarah DeHaai
- 13- Phyllis Testerman
 - Peter Rembold
- 14- Irene Jordeth
 - Chelsea Pugh
 - Elizabeth Welk
- 15 – Haylie Huss
- 16- Erin Douglas
 - Stephanie Dietterle
- 17- Troy Beckett
- 18- Grant Rediger
- 24- Mike Mentzer
 - Storm Johnsen
 - Evan Wieseler
- 26- Greg Johnson
- 27- Bob Waldrop
- 28- Bruce Jones
 - Ruth Sivertsen
 - Rya Wagner
- 29- Ruby Parmely
- 30 – Maralyn Carder

Anniversaries in April

- 20- Lance & Sarah DeHaai
- 27- Richard & Becky Nelson
- 30- John & Chris Niederauer

Deacons for April

- Barb Lager
- Wanda Stevens
- Andrea Hargens-Flores

Barb

Birthdays in May

- 1- Chloe Miner
- 2 - Charlotte Taylor
 - Matt Roy
- 3- Angie Arbogast
- 5- Carol Williams
 - Harold Hastings
- 6- Justin Fanning
- 7- Shane Bertsch
 - Kay Foreman
- 8- Sue Jones
- 9- Suzy Blaseg
- 11- Jeanice Stevens
- 15- Travis Heasley
- 16 –Lori Resel
- 17- Christy Palmer
- 18- Pam Heasley
- 20- Shaylee Anderberg
- 24-Padyn Resel
- 23 –Cassi VanDerWerff
- 25- Leona Schilling
- 26- Claudia Rombough
- 28- Nancy Williams
 - Cheryl Snyders
- 31- Rich Strasburg
 - Tony Moss

Anniversaries in May

- 12-Warren & Carole Skinner
 - Jeff & Pam Heasley
- 14- Don & Jeanice Stevens

19 - Bruce & Jennifer Jones
28- Brett & Roxanne Stevens

Greeters for April

1-Tiffany & Kevin Hofer

St: Blake & Grace Hofer

8- Travis & Angie Anderberg

St:Brecken & Kaihlynn

15-Wes & Tiffany McClure

St:Ben Wangness& Joseph McClure

22-Tony Moss

St: Peyton & Rylie Moss

29-Kelly Wagner

St: Harper & Hadley Duxbury &
Lawson Wagner

Greeters for May

6- Padyn Resel

St: Kynslee Muschitz & Bryleigh Resel

13-Annette Snodgrass

St: Haistyn & Haylie Huss

20-Chris & Ronalee Johnsen

St: Peyton & Rylie Moss

27-Harriet Kopplin

Ushers for April

Pete DeGeest & Kevin Hofer,

Student Ushers for April

1-Davin & Dayken Bossert

8-Jaden & Shaylee Anderberg

15-Janelle Kenaston & Kelby Tracy

22-Heather & Corey Resel

39-Eric & Ian Speck & Landon Wagner

Ushers for May

Larry & Janice Arbogast

Carolyn & Greg Rediger

Student Ushers for May

6- Justin & Laura Evans

13-Eli & Jack Jones, Haidyn Huss

20-Storm & Sydney Johnsen

Deacons for May

Dwan DeGeest

Gayle Vrooman





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