

First Press

February 2019 - March 2019

First Presbyterian Church
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FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

***He said to them, "Is a lamp
brought in to be put under the
bushel basket, or under the bed,
and not on the lampstand?"***

Mark 4:21 (NRSV)

As the Christmas season has begun to fade into the past, and the winter cold is upon us in full force, we have maybe made News Year's resolutions and many of those have already been set aside. Maybe we sought to lose some weight, and maybe that didn't happen. Maybe this long dark, cold season makes us a bit blue—or worse. Maybe our relationships are not what we hope they would be.

And maybe we can see that we had something to do with that.

Just the facts of our own lives are really enough to keep us humble. We dare not boast too much. And humility is a good thing. Scripture tells us so more than once.

But also, Jesus tells us not to hide our light under a bushel basket. So it looks like we are to try to find a way to let our light shine, while also remaining humble. And it turns out we can do just that.

One way our light could shine for others is if we were to be very open with them about what a blessing our church is. And it is.

We have worship that people actually show up for, a great Christian education program for kids and adults, and meaningful and good

music with dedicated musicians. We support important and varied mission projects and trips. In addition, we have fun together (Don't forget the Fat Tuesday dinner on March 5th). There is much to celebrate in our church.

But it is hard for us to talk about this in public, because it seems like boasting to do so. So, two things about that. First, there are people in this county who have no strong tie to a congregation, and they need that tie. When we don't encourage them to join us, we are not being humble, we are being fearful, and we really may be depriving them of something important.

Second, singing the virtues of our church is not bragging, when we understand that the gifts we have as a church are gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit. They are gifts. These things were given to us to use for God's purposes.

People need all kinds of things from us. One thing a lot of people need is to be embraced by a church like ours. If you know people who don't have a meaningful church home, I hope you will encourage them to join us, and maybe you could even offer to give them a ride!

Blessings,

Brian Jones

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Mission Trip News!!!!

Many of us from Hand County (and from our church) will be taking a trip to Belize in June to continue the work we started there in 2014, and to renew our relationships with the people there. If you have any interest in going, or think you might, please call Brian (204-0625) ASAP.

Deadlines are approaching very rapidly, but there is still time to get in, and we would love to have you join us.

Our mission projects will be quite varied, so don't think we won't have something important for you to do!





The Presbyterian Women has rolled into the new 2019 year. I am serving as the new Moderator, while Charlene Beckett will be the Co-Moderator, PW continues to hold Circle Bible Studies on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (with a break during summer months). If you would like more info on these, contact Susan Jones.

The night group will be hosting the February birthday party at the Good Samaritan Center on Feb. 18th as part of our community outreach.

If there are suggestions or concerns about PW activities, please feel free to call me anytime at 853-3299.

PW Moderator
Mary Johnson

SESSION REPORT

Session held its regular meetings on
December 12, 2018 at 7pm &
January 9, 2019 at 8 pm
in the Campbell Library

Communion

December 2, 2018

Funerals

Kathryn Weaver

Donna Widmayer

Baptism

Tyson Keith VanDerWerff
son of Rusty and Jill VanDerWerff

Clerk of Session

Shar Ruhnke

New Church Website & Addresses

The name and address for our church website has been changed to www.millerpresby.com If you forget the new web address, just do a search or "Google" the words "millerpresby" and it should come up for you!

Secretary's email is
secretarypresby@gmail.com

Pastor Brian's email is
millerpresbypastor@gmail.com

Also . . . on our website now, on the far left side of the website pages, there is a column that will have announcements, dates, events and other information – and this is where I

really need help from all of you!

Please email me (deesiv@gmail.com) or call me (605-853-3257), or get info to Patty/church secretary for her to relay to me

(secretarypresby@gmail.com) of dates/events/announcements, etc. that need to be shared to our congregation so I can get them published on the website ASAP.

Church sermon video recordings can now be viewed from the church website –just go to the website, click “More” at top of screen to open that drop-down box and click “Sermon Videos”. We’re hoping this will be a wonderful means to share our church services with individuals who cannot attend services and those living away from our area, so please feel free to share this link with others!

Lastly, am sure you have all heard the phrase “it takes a village to raise a child”? Well, that also applies to our church website **your** input, feedback, info, etc. is very valuable in helping me to keep our website up to date, informative and sharing . . . so please let me know of changes, corrections, information we need to share, etc. And if you see wrong email addresses, phone numbers, etc. for persons to contact, please let me know so I can change/correct those items.

Feedback is welcome . . . photos of church events and suggestions to make our website even better are welcome! Just email me at deesiv@gmail.com or call 605-853-3257!

Thank you for visiting the church website and offering your input and church news info! I hope you enjoy the website and find it useful and spiritually fulfilling!

Dee Sivertsen

**Thank you to everyone
who participated and
helped with our third
annual Pie Auction. Your
help was very much
appreciated. You are all
awesome!!**

**World Mission
Committee-Foods
Resource Bank**

Email Addresses Wanted!

We are e-mailing the newsletter to those who would like to receive a paperless copy. You can e-mail your address to the church at my address of secretarypresby@gmail.com or receive a paper copy at the Church. If you would still like the newsletter mailed to you, please let us know. Since we have changed our e-mail address, please let me know if you are not receiving the newsletter by e-mail. Thank you!



Christian Education

"We love because God first loved us."

1st John 4:19

The Sunday school Christmas program, including "Emoji Christmas" was presented during worship on December 16th. **MANY THANKS** to **Kelly Wagner, Laura Duxbury, Jody Speck**, and to **Nicole Trefz** and the other Sunday school teachers and parents for their help as well. Thank you to **Susan Jones** for playing the piano for the program. Everyone did a great job!

A **THANK YOU** also goes to **Travis and Angie Anderberg and Greg and Carolyn Rediger** for providing and preparing the treat bags that were handed out to the children after the program.

The Senior Youth Group set up and decorated the tree in the sanctuary. They also sold cheese at the Farm and Home show. The students worked hard and it was a success. However, it could not happen without the adult volunteers.

Many Thanks to the adult volunteers who helped with the cheese sale:

Harriet Kopplin, Mary Johnson, Dawn Haar, Susan Jones,

Shar Ruhnke



The Junior Youth Group, directed by Sarah DeHaai and Kevin Hofer, has been meeting monthly since October. They met with the Sunday school students during church in November and made decorations for the tree in the fellowship hall. This group also went ice skating in Huron in January.



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.

Congratulations to the Sunday school students who will be awarded 2017-2018 attendance pins! These are for last year's attendance. The pins are awarded for every 30 days of attendance. There were 36 Sunday school days this last Sunday school period. This means a student could miss no more than 6 Sundays and still be awarded an attendance pin. Sometimes it happens that a

student just misses getting an attendance pin by a Sunday or two. If this is the case it IS possible, then, to earn 2 pins the following year.

First Year Pins

Vaelynn Welk, Rya Wagner,
Lawson Wagner, Harper Duxbury,
Peyton Moss, Davin Bossert

Second Year Pins

Quinnley Miner, Blake Hofer,
Ava Johnson, Rylie Moss, Bryleigh
Resel, Brooks Johnson, Carlie
Selting,
Serenity Johnson

Third Year Pins

Joseph McClure, Ruby Carder

Fourth Year Pins

Jordyn Pugh, Tanner DeHaai,
Caiden Kruml, McCade Nelson,
Joseph McClure, Cassi
VanDerWerff, Ruby Carder

Fifth Year Pins

Brecken Anderberg, Grace Hofer,
Jayce Pugh, Maverick Nelson,
Ian Speck, Aubrey DeHaai

Sixth Year Pins

Ben Wangsness, Kaihlyn
Anderberg, Arielle Miner, Heather
Resel

Seventh Year Pin

Carson Miner

Eighth Year Pin

Shaylee Anderberg

Ninth Year Pin

Jaden Anderberg

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**We are already thinking about
Vacation Bible School!**

Chelsea Pugh was the Vacation Bible School planning chairperson last year with Andrea Mushitz serving as co-chair. Andrea will be serving as chairperson this year so.....

We need a new co-chair to help plan VBS this year. This is a 2-year obligation. Interested volunteers should contact Tyann Jones.

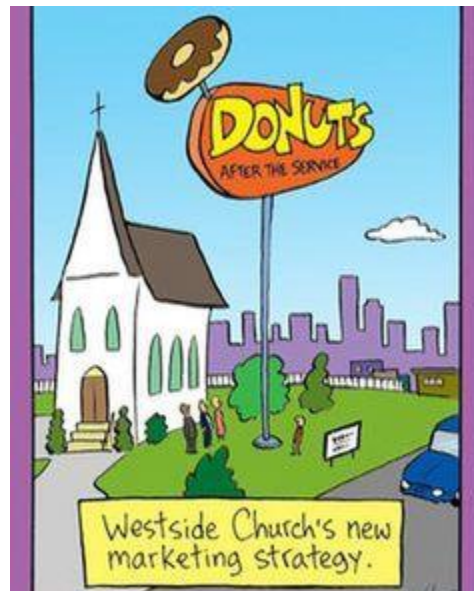
Submitted by Tyann Jones





The choir would like to thank our anonymous “Rudolph” who treated us with Subway gift certificates a wonderful and greatly appreciated surprise! We sing every Sunday and practice on Wednesday nights. If you love to sing, please consider joining us!

The handbell choir began practicing for the new year on January 16. We will practice each Wednesday at 6:00. Our goal is to have regular practices so that we are able to play once a month until May. We are excited to share new music in the months ahead. If you are interested in joining the ringers, please contact Ray Caffee, our director.



Sunday School Greeters and Ushers

Greeters

Feb. 3: Cody and Carter Fanning
Feb. 10: Jayce, Jordyn & Jake Pugh
Feb. 17: Bennett & Tanner DeHaai
Feb.24: Quinnley & Arielle Miner

Mar.3: Corbin & Caiden Kruml
Serenity Johnson
Mar. 10: Camden Eschenbaum
Mar. 17: Rya Wagner & Vaelynn Welk
Mar. 24: Ava, Brooks & Nicholas ‘
Johnson
Mar. 31: Blake & Grace Hofer

Apr. 7: Brecken & Kaihlyn Anderberg
Apr. 14: Joseph & Samuel McClure
Apr. 21 Peyton & Rylie Moss
April 28: Lawson & Ollie Wagner

May 5: Kynslee Mushitz & Bryleigh
Resel
May 12: Harper & Hadley Duxbury
May 19: Cade & Evelyn Trefz

Ushers

McCade & Maverick Nelson
Kaden Sivertsen & Joseph Wieseler
Aubrey & Schelbie DeHaai
Carson Miner, Kylie & Carlie Selting

Carter Kruml, Davon Rombough,
Kaden & Briggs Runge
Mark & Cole Cavenee
Owen & Oliver Fritzsche, Saylr Moncur
Alexis Johnson, Cassi VanDerWerff

Dayken & Davin Bossert

Jaden & Shaylee Anderberg
Janelle Kenaston, Ben Wangsness
Heather & Corey Resel
Landon Wagner, Eric & Ian Speck

Justin & Laura Evans

Eli Jones, Ruby Carder
Storm & Sydney Johnsen

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

February Birthdays

2—Travis Anderberg
Mike Roy
4—Ellen Kay Wagner
Oleary
Caiden Kruml
5—Matt Wagner
9—Dorothy Stevens
Teagan Foreman
12—Chelsea Davis
Corey Resel
14—Taylor Johnson
Seth Rombough
16 – Chasity Selting
17 – Chris Kruml
18- Sheila Hancock
19—Jessica VanZee
Lyle Williams
20- Casey Schultz
21 - Jody Speck
22—Dee Lewis
Arielle Miner
Luella Schultz
24—Rachael Moeller
26—Joseph Blaseg
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

Chris Johnsen
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 - Jill Meyer
11 - Tara Haar Brouwer
12 - Larry Blaseg
16 - Teresa Eschenbaum
17 - Trey Waldrop
18 - Greg Haar
Wyatt Strasburg
19 - Deb Bushfield
Phil Letsche
Rosemary Moeller
21 - Jaime Gard Hall
22 - Cassie Beckett
26 - Abby Hill
Doug Fritzsche
27 - Charlene Beckett
Will Jones
Dani Kappler
28 - Beth Fischer
31 - Joan Bertsch

March Anniversaries

2—Jim & Norma
Waring
25-Chris & Christina
Kruml
28 –Duane & Sally Resel

USHERS

February: Rich Waldrop &
Nancy Williams

March: Dave & Jean Johnson

DEACONS

Feb: Jan Winter, Angie
Rosemore &
Sue Jones

March: Joan Bertsch,
Curt Johnson & Jim Jones

GREETERS

Feb. 3: Cheryl Fanning
Feb. 10: Chelsea & Riley Pugh
Feb. 17: Lance DeHaai
Feb. 24: Cecilee Miner

Mar. 3: Chris & Christina Kruml
Mar. 10: Rick & Alyssa
Eschenbaum
Mar. 18: Brooke & Will Jones
Mar. 25: Curtis & Kelly
Johnson

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