

# First Press

April 2020—May 2020

First Presbyterian Church  
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## From the Pastor's Study

*Out of the depths I cry to you,*

**O LORD.**

**Lord, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the  
voice of my supplications!**

*Psalm 130:1-2 (NRSV)*

As I write this, there still remains a big question as to the toll the new Corona virus will take on the people of the world. It remains unknown how many people will get sick, how many will die, whether the health care system in the U.S. can withstand the strain of such a pandemic.

But we know that a substantial price is already being paid. Some areas of the world and even of the U.S. have been hard hit. And even in places like South

Dakota, where there has been relatively little viral activity so far, a price is being paid. We no longer find ourselves making it possible to be physically present with each other. We are being warned against it. Such behavior goes against our Christian nature.

I know that some people are introverts and some are extroverts, and maybe the introverts are having their day, being advised to stay away from everybody else! But introvert or extrovert, we disciples are all called to find ways to love and serve others.

Maybe this pandemic will give us new chances to minister to each other and to others. Maybe we will find that there are really important things we can do for each other, from at

least six feet away. Maybe we will see ourselves grow as Christians. I have no doubt that there will be a silver lining or two.

But we do pay a steep price. We are no longer physically together on Sundays, and I will tell you that I am anxious for the time when that situation comes to an end. The way we worship during the season of Lent is particularly crucial to the way we live as Christians. The readings, the message, the songs, the prayers of this season really do play apart in forming us as human beings and as children of God.

As you know, we are trying different things to stay connected. We will be able to worship “together” via our church website. The session and its committees are working on ways to make sure we continue, or even enhance our ministries to each other and to the community.

And I hope we can really throw ourselves at the project. It will take some discipline and some courage, but I have no doubt we have it in us. And if we do our work well, I feel confident in saying that we will be even stronger as we come out the other end of this event, whenever that might be.

In these days, there will be times when our prayers will be coming “from out of

the depths,” but we have come to believe that the ears of our Lord are always attentive to the voice of our supplications. I invite you to read the rest of Psalm 130, because, while it starts out on a pretty dark note, it ends well. So shall it be before us, as we remain faithful to our calling.

Blessings,  
Brian Jones

\* \* \* \* \*

### *Join us for Worship!*

We will still be having worship during these times when we cannot get together. Please check the church’s web page at [www.millerpresby.com](http://www.millerpresby.com) for information about the services. It would be great if we could be together virtually, if not physically!

### *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.

## SESSION REPORT

Session held its regular meetings  
on February 19th and March  
11th at 8pm in the Campbell  
Library

**Communion  
was served on**

February 2nd (served 61)

**Think spring it's almost here**

May 19-MHS graduation

May 20-SBA graduation

Clerk of Session, Shar Ruhnke



The **ANNUAL MEETING** was held on Feb. 27, 2020 at Church Fellowship Hall with approximately 20 ladies present.

Since we did not have the 2019 FALL LUNCHEON, we discussed the possibility of hosting a spring luncheon this year. Due to the current COVID-19 health crisis, we since have determined to not go forward with those plans. We will reconsider the 2020 Fall Luncheon later.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Circle group 1 was active with meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Due to COVID-19, no meetings will be held in March and April. Future bible study will be determined next fall.

For the **annual Missions**, the group voted to give cash donations to Meals on Wheels, Helping Hands, Hands of Hope and Rustlers Angels. We will reach out to Jr. Youth Group and Sr. Youth Group to find out any needs.

We welcome any suggestions for fund raising, missions or anything else you'd like to see the PW accomplish this year. Thank you to the ladies for their assistance in the work of the Presbyterian Women.

In the uncertainty of health and life in the present times, we face many "to be determined". But we can all BE KIND! Call friends. Send a card or many cards. Dear Lord, bless us and keep us. Amen.

Mary Johnson, Moderator

## *Happy Birthday!*

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

## *Greeting Cards for Sale*

The PW has boxed greeting cards for sale. They are usually available at the Fall Luncheon, but since there wasn't one last fall, they were sold at the men's Fat Tuesday meal in February. The cards are also available in the bottom cupboard by the freezer in the kitchen. Prices are marked on the boxes.

Feel free to select a box or two and put your payment in the moneybag in the same cupboard. If you prefer, you may give your payment to Nancy Williams or Sue Jones. Make checks payable to PW. There is a wide variety of cards to choose from. Our present stock includes Get Well, Sympathy, Birthday, Baby Congratulations, Thank You, All Occasion, and Graduation. This is a good way to help the PW while stocking up on cards at a reasonable price! If you have any questions, please contact Sue Jones.

## **Fourth Annual Pie Auction**

*Thanks to everyone  
for all of your help and baking  
expertise as well as the purchasers  
of all those delicious pies!*

## Save The Date!

Meals on Wheels

May 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

## EASTER MEMORIALS & EASTER LILIES

If you wish to make an Easter Memorial donation please give to Dawn Haar or Jean Johnson. Those wishing to bring an Easter Lily for the Easter Sunday church service are welcome.



The choir sings through the first Sunday of June (and enjoys 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 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 has finished its practices and performing until next fall due to the uncertain circumstances. Please let Ray or any bell choir member know if you would be interested in joining the group.

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## 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.

### Spring schedule

**ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**Due to COVID-19 restrictions**

**April 5: Palm Sunday** – Sunday school students will meet in fellowship hall before church to march into church with **palm branches**. **Fish banks** are due that day too. Sunday school students will **sing** during church.

**April 9: Maundy Thursday** service at Methodist Church at **6:00 PM**.

**April 12: Easter** – There will be a multiage Sunday school class – ALL students will have class together.

## **April 26 Talent Show and Supper**

Fundraiser hosted by Sr. Youth Group

**4:00 show; Supper to follow**

**May 3:** – We will honor our **Christian Education Leaders** during worship. AND we will honor our **HS graduates** on this day also.

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

**May 10:** – Last day of Sunday school.

## **2020 High School Graduates**

Jannelle Kenaston

Kaden Sivertsen

Dayken Nelson



On May 3 we will be honoring them during church with a reception in the fellowship hall to follow church.

**Everyone is welcome to attend.**

Submitted by Tyann Jones

## *Vacation Bible School*

Vacation Bible School will be **at our church** this year.

Dates: Tentatively set for June 15-18.

For children from age 4 to those just finishing 4<sup>th</sup> grade

VBS Committee chairperson: Kelly Wagner

For children from age 4 to those just finishing 4<sup>th</sup> grade

VBS Committee chairperson: Kelly Wagner.  
We still need a new co-chair. Please consider volunteering for this opportunity!



## **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
- 14- Irene Jordeth
  - Chelsea Pugh
  - Elizabeth Welk
- 15 – Haylie Huss
  - Kelly Wagner
- 16- Stephanie Dietterle
- 17- Troy Beckett
- 18- Grant Rediger
- 24- Mike Mentzer
  - Storm Johnsen
  - Evan Wieseler
- 26- Greg Johnson
- 27- Bob Waldrop
- 28- Bruce Jones
  - Rya Wagner
- 30 –Maralyn Carder

## **Anniversaries in April**

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

## **Deacons for April**

Barb Lager, Sarah DeHaai, &  
Andrea Hargens Flores

## **Birthdays in May**

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

## **Anniversaries in May**

- 1-Shannon & Jody Speck
- 12-Warren & Carole Skinner
  - Jeff & Pam Heasley
- 14- Don & Jeanice Stevens
- 19 - Bruce & Jennifer Jones
- 28- Brett & Roxanne Stevens



## **Greeters for April**

5- Travis & Angie Anderberg  
St: Brecken & Kaihlynn Anderberg, Landon Tanner

12- Vance & Jennie Caffee  
St- Ivan & Nolan Caffee

19- Chelsea & Riley Pugh  
St. Jayce, Jordyn & Jake Pugh

26- Kelly Wagner  
St: Ollie & Lawson Wagner, Leroy Danburg

## **Greeters for May**

3- Padyn & Ryan Resel  
St: Xavier Flores & Bryleigh Resel

10- Laura & Clay Duxbury  
St: Harper & Hadley Duxbury

17- Dan & Nicole Trefz  
St: Cade & Evelyn Trefz

24- Harriet Kopplin

31- Robin & Gayle Vrooman

## **Ushers for April**

Pete DeGeest & Kevin Hofer

## **Student Ushers for April**

5- Jaden & Shaylee Anderberg

12- Janelle Kenaston & Ben Wangsness

19- Heather & Corey Resel

26- Eric & Ian Speck & Landon Wagner

## **Ushers for May**

Larry & Janice Arbogast

Carolyn & Greg Rediger

## **Student Ushers for May**

3- Justin & Laura Evans

10- Ruby Carder

17- Storm & Sydney Johnsen

## **Deacons for May**

Sarah Resel

Teresa Eschenbaum

