

First Press

April 2019 - May 2019

First Presbyterian Church
321 West First Avenue
Miller, South Dakota 57362

P.O. Box 63
www.millerpresby.com

Rev. Brian Jones (605) 853-3386
www.millerpresbypastor@gmail.com

(605) 853-3386
Pat Crackel, editor
secretarypresby@gmail.com

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

*You who live in the shelter of
the Most High,
who abide in the shadow
of the Almighty,
will say to the LORD, "My
refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."
For he will deliver you from
the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly
pestilence;
he will cover you with his
pinions,
and under his wings you
will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield
and buckler.*

Psalm 91:1-4 (NRSV)

On a recent Sunday, during worship, we read about Jesus who was headed to Jerusalem, and who, though pretty unhappy about the way the city had

behaved, claimed that he had always sought to protect the city, the way a mother hen protects her chicks under her wings.

Here we see the same sort of image from the Book of Psalms. The more you read about Jesus and the things he said, the more you conclude that he knew his psalms pretty well.

I used to raise little zebra finches (maybe I will again someday!). And one thing the hens will always do if you seem like you are a threat to their chicks is to cover the babies with their wings. I calculated once that I weighed about 1400 times what that mama finch weighed, so it was surely an act of courage to even think about trying to stop me from disrupting her nest.

Jesus, too, demonstrated courage—and faith beyond compare—in seeking to lead and guide and protect

his people. And it led, as we know, to a hilltop cross outside Jerusalem. This story is fundamental to each of us personally, and to our life as Christian congregation, and it needs to be told and heard over and over.

The story reminds us of the tremendous love God has for us every single day of our lives, and for all eternity.

The Rev. Joseph Andrews served as pastor of our church from 1928 to 1949. I am told that he ended each sermon with the same words. They are the words of the last line of the great old hymn of this season called "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

The words remind us of God's love, and the lengths to which God is willing to go to save us.

I hope you can be with us for the remainder of Lent and for the entire Easter season. Your presence would be a blessing, and I feel sure that you would feel blessed as well. And maybe you will get a chance to sing the words of that song:

"Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all."

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 13, 2018 at 8pm &

March 13, 2019 at 7pm

in the Campbell Library

Communion

February 3, 2018

/Funeral

Georgia Soper

January 29, 2019

Anyone else anxious for spring
flowers

Clerk of Session

Shar Ruhnke

May 19-MHS graduation

May 20-SBA graduation

Clerk of Session *Shar*
Ruhnke



PW Women

The Circle 2 group hosted the March monthly birthday party at Good Samaritan for 3 birthday persons. Thanks to all the ladies who provided and served the lunch. Also thank you Carol Skinner who was the entertainment. The residents always enjoy the fun of a birthday party.

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

New Spring Mission

Thanks to God and thank goodness, SPRING will arrive this week. So, what do we begin to think of at this time???? How about some SPRING CLEANING. A new mission is in the planning stages to compliment the Mission trip that church members will be making to Belize.

More information will be coming, but I'll give you a hint. While cleaning out your closets, please be sure to save any "gently worn" shoes that you may wish to donate to a good cause. A group of us discussed this over coffee at church one morning, so I know that I'm not the only one who would gladly pass along shoes that I no longer wear or need.

More details to come soon!

Third Annual Pie Auction

*Thanks to everyone
for all of your help
and baking expertise*

We raised a total of

\$2460 to aid the church
budget

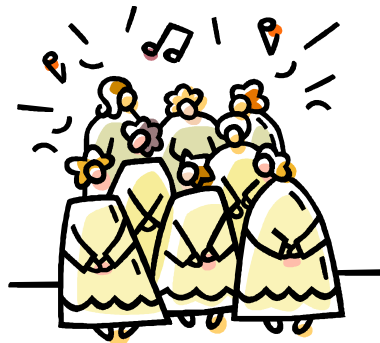
Growing Hope
formally

Foods Resources Bank

Thanks to the farmers
from our congregation who
generously donated their
time, hard labor and the
proceeds from their corn
and soybean crops, we
were able to fund \$5300
to Guatemala and
Nicaragua-giving aid and
hope to 96 families



Music Notes



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 resumed weekly practices in January on Wednesday nights at 6:00 following a short Christmas break. We have been practicing new music and plan to play for the congregation once a month (weather permitting-we have missed several practices this year due to that). We hope you enjoy listening to the bells and hand chimes-we enjoy playing for you! 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 March 3rd. **Congratulations and thanks** to the students, families and teachers for making that happen.



The Sunday school students sang during worship in March.

The junior youth group went ice skating in February, they met in March, and are looking forward to a lock-in in May.

The senior youth group has been meeting bi-monthly. They have been reviewing Bible stories and the lessons revealed in each. They are planning a Talent Show April 28.

The Sunday school teachers can be commended for being so conscientious and responsible during this long, winter. They worked very hard to make sure lessons were taught in their classes even if they were snowed out.

Thank you!

+++++

Spring schedule:

March 24: The Confirmation class will conduct the church service.

April 14: 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 21: Easter – There will be a multiage Sunday school class – ALL students will have class together.

April 28: Confirmation of 13
Confirmands during church.

April 28: Talent Show and Supper

Fundraiser hosted by Sr. Youth Group

4:00 show; Supper to follow

May 5: – We will honor our **Christian Education Leaders** during worship. AND we will honor our **HS graduates** on this day also.

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

May 12: – Last day of Sunday school.

++++
++++

2019 High School Graduates:

Kylie Selting
Joseph Wieseler
Eli Jones
Shelby Belmore



On May 5 we will be honoring them during church with a reception to follow. **Everyone is welcome to attend.**

++++
+++

Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2019!

Shaylee Anderberg
Davin Bossert
Ruby Carder
Laura Evans
Sydney Johnsen
Serenity Johnson
Carter Kruml
Carson Miner
Heather Resel
Carlie Selting
Ian Speck

Landon Wagner
Cassi VanDerWerff



**Confirmation is Sunday,
April 28, 2019**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be at the United Methodist Church this year.

Dates: TBA

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

VBS Committee chairperson:
Andrea Mushitz

We still need a new co-chair.
Please consider volunteering for this opportunity!





Evan Wieseler
 Greg Johnson
 Bob Waldrop
 Bruce Jones
 Ruth Sivertsen
 Maya Wagner
 Ruby Parmely
 Marilyn Carder

Anniversaries in April

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

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
 Kelly Wagner
 16- Erin Douglas
 Stephanie Dietterle
 17- Troy Beckett
 18- Grant Rediger
 24- Mike Mentzer
 Storm Johnsen

Deacons for April

Barb Lager &
 Andrea Hargens Flores

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
 Lawson Wagner
 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

Kenna Nelson
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



www.shutterstock.com · 375813892

Greeters for April

7- Travis & Angie Anderberg
St: Brecken & Kaihlynn Anderberg

14- Wes & Tiffany McClure
St: Samuel & Joseph McClure

21- Tony Moss
St: Peyton & Rylie Moss

28- Kelly Wagner
St: Ollie & Lawson Wagner

Greeters for May

5- Padyn Resel
St: Kynslee Muschitz & Bryleigh Resel

12- Laura Duxbury
St: Harper & Hadley Duxbury

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

26- Harriet Kopplin

Ushers for April

Pete DeGeest & Kevin Hofer,

Student Ushers for April

7- Jaden & Shaylee Anderberg
14- Janelle Kenaston & Ben Wangsness
21- Heather & Corey Resel
28- Eric & Ian Speck & Landon Wagner

Ushers for May

Larry & Janice Arbogast
Carolyn & Greg Rediger

Student Ushers for May

5- Justin & Laura Evans
12- Eli Jones & Ruby Carder
19- Storm & Sydney Johnsen

Deacons for May

Dwan DeGeest
Gayle Vrooman

