



Mission Statement of 1st Presbyterian Church, Hastings

Following Christ, we strive to love and serve the world so that all may grow in faith and experience true joy.



is the defining
characteristic

Of a Disciple of

CHRIST

1stpresb.org

More Good News

Feb. 2018

Volume 19, #2

From the Pastor's Desk

February at a Glance

Feb. 4

10:30 AM Worship
w/ Communion
Ordination and Installation of
Deacons/Elders

Feb. 3

Community Blood Drive
St. Luke's 9 AM - 3 PM

Feb. 7

Youth Group 6:45 PM

Feb. 11

10:30 AM Worship

Feb. 13

Session 6:30 PM

Feb. 14

Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM
Heifer Project Wrap Up

Feb. 18

10:30 AM Worship

Feb. 25

10:30 AM Worship
Bells of the Bluff Handbell
Concert 2 PM

February is the traditional month of love. Although weddings are typically in the spring and summer, the occasion of Valentine's Day on February 14 defines the theme of the month.

Valentine's Day originated as a Western Christian liturgical feast day honoring one or more early saints named Valentinus. Several martyrdom stories associated with the various Valentines that were connected to February 14 were added to later martyr's stories, including a popular account of Saint Valentine of Rome.

The day first became associated with romantic love within the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). Saint Valentine's Day is an official feast day in the Anglican Communion, as well as in the Lutheran Church. Many parts of the Eastern Orthodox Church also celebrate Saint Valentine's Day, albeit on July 6 and July 30.

This year, our Christian celebration of Ash Wednesday occurs on Wednesday, February 14th. At first look, it may seem an inauspicious date to begin our Lenten journey with a somber service recalling the promise that in death, we all return to the

dust. However, in a larger and more profound sense, I cannot think of a time or occasion that is not more filled with genuine love than the love which God promises us upon the occasion of our death. It is not the sappy, sentimentality of *eros* or *philia* love which we humans express between one another. It is the true, unyielding, undying, unconditional *agape* love which our God expresses and demonstrates for each one of us.

As we begin our Lenten journey with the smudge of ashes, we are really beginning our journey of love. A journey of love through which our God expresses love for us in a very specific way through the martyrdom of God's only son, and the love we can share with God in return.

So, invite someone who God loves to church for our Ash Wednesday service. Come together and experience God's unconditional, undying love for each one of us.

I look forward to seeing you in church,

Steve



Rev. Steve Robertson is always available for questions or pastoral emergencies. Please contact him anytime. Call or text his cell phone: 612-655-7594 Or Email: stevempls@icloud.com



Pastor Steve will be Away – Pastor Steve will be away from February 15th to 20th in Costa Rica with his wife Susan (following her time with a college group there.) During the time that Steve is away, **Rev. Paula Sanders** has agreed to be on call for any pastoral emergencies. You can reach her at 612-310-5864. Steve will be back in town on the 21st and back in worship on the 25th.

Community Blood Drive

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on **Saturday, February 3rd**, from 9 am to 3 pm. Sign up ahead of time at www.redcrossblood.org or call the church at 651-437-9855. Walk-ins are always welcome as well.



Ordination and Installation of Officers

All those being ordained and/or installed as new church officers (Elders or Deacons) are reminded that we will celebrate your ordination or installation during worship on **Sunday, February 4th**. Please plan to be in worship that day and join with your fellow officers in this important recognition.

Youth Group Game Night

Middle and High School youth will gather on **Wednesday, February 7** at 6:45 pm for their monthly game night at Park Ridge Apartments. Meet at St. Luke's Episcopal Church to carpool together. Contact Pastor Steve with questions.



Session Meeting

The Session will meet at church on **Tuesday, February 13 at 6:30 pm**. Session members please let Pastor Steve know if you will not be able to attend.



Ash Wednesday Service

Join together on **Wednesday, February 14 at 7 pm** as we begin the Lenten Season with our Ash Wednesday Worship Service. Pastor Steve will preach, and the imposition of ashes will be offered.

Heifer Project

Please continue to feed the piggy bank on the kiosk with your spare change or put your checks marked "Heifer" in the offering plate. We will wrap up our collection for the Heifer Project on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Our goal is to collect \$120 to purchase a goat, sheep, or pig (you choose!). Our STRETCH GOAL is to raise \$250 to buy a water buffalo!

Questions may be directed to Mary Crawmer.



Bell Choir News

The Bell Choir will be playing on Easter Sunday, April 1st and again on Sunday, April 29th. Rehearsals will begin the week of February 18th. The rehearsal schedule will be announced soon. Contact Marcia Rash with questions or to let her know when you will be away for spring break.

Special Music in Worship



We will welcome Handbell Soloist Jean Fjelsted, a member of the Bells of the Bluff Handbell Ensemble, to our worship service on Sunday, February 25th. She will be enriching our worship with her special gift of music and getting us warmed up for the concert with the full Ensemble later that afternoon.

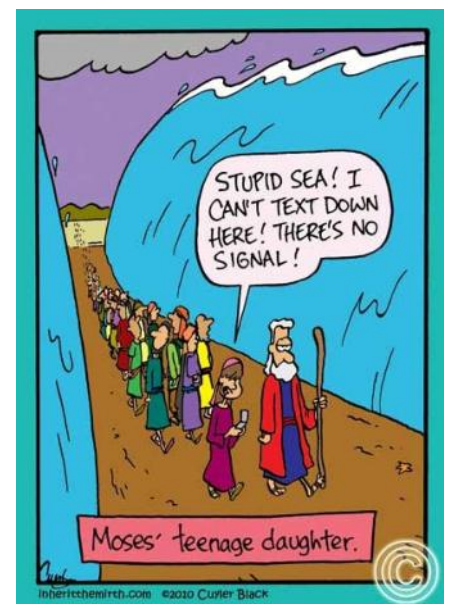
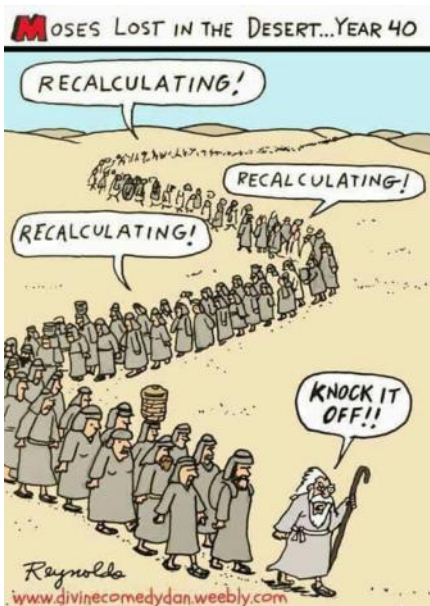
Scripts Fund-raising Order

It is time for another Scripts order. Kristin Blevins will be submitting an order on **Feb. 25th**. There are lists and order forms downstairs. Remember each gift card you purchase earns First Presbyterian money.



Mark Your Calendar for Lent and Easter

Thursday, March 29 (7pm) – Maundy Thursday worship service
Friday, March 30 – Ecumenical Good Friday Service (time and location TBA)
Sunday, April 1 – Easter Sunday



Bells of the Bluff Handbell Ensemble in Concert

On Sunday, February 25 at 2 pm we will welcome the well-known Bells of the Bluff Handbell Ensemble in concert at FPC Hastings for a “Winter Warmup” concert featuring “Hot Sounds and Warm Friends.” The concert is free, but a free-will offering will be received to cover expenses for the group.



In Concert

Bells of the Bluffs Handbell Ensemble

**First Presbyterian Church
602 Vermillion Street
Hastings, MN 55033**

**Sunday, February 25, 2018
2:00 PM**

Winter Warmup

**Hot Sounds
Warm Friends**

Free Will Donation

THE RECIPE CORNER

Starting in this month's newsletter we will be sharing our favorite recipes.

Please send your recipes to Becky Tiefenbruck at mrsbect@gmail.com or put them in the newsletter box in the office.



Asparagus Leek Soup

submitted by Karen Altpeter

- 3 c. sliced mushrooms
- 3 large leeks, sliced
- 1 (10 oz.) package cut asparagus frozen; fresh may also be used
- 6 Tbl. margarine
- ½ tsp. salt
- 3 Tbl. flour
- Dash pepper
- 2 c. chicken broth
- 2 c. light cream (I use fat free half & half)
- 1 Tbl. pimento
- 1 (12 oz.) can white shoe peg corn; I have used regular frozen corn instead

In a large saucepan, cook mushrooms, leek and asparagus in margarine until tender, but not browned, about 10 minutes. Stir in flour, salt, and pepper. Add broth and cream. Cook and stir until mixture is thick and bubbly. Stir in corn and pimento. Heat through and season.

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Claudia Frances Hernaman (1873)

Lord, Who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins
And close by Thee to stay.

As Thou with Satan didst contend,
And didst the victory win,
O give us strength in Thee to fight,
In Thee to conquer sin.

As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live
By Thy most holy Word.

And through these days of penitence,
And through Thy passiontide,
Yea, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life
Of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last.

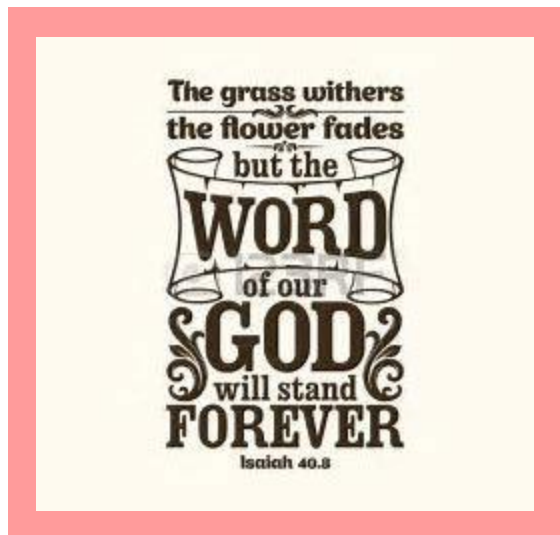
Bible Readings This Month

February 4

Isa. 40: 21-31
Ps. 147: 1-11, 20c
1 Cor. 9: 16-23
Mark 1: 29-39

February 18

Gen. 9: 8-17
Ps. 25: 1-10
1 Peter 3: 18-22
Mark 1: 9-15



February 11

2 Kings 2: 1-12
Ps. 50: 1-6
2 Cor. 4: 3-6
Mark 9: 2-9

February 25

Gen. 17: 1-7, 15-16
Ps. 22: 23-31
Rom. 4: 13-25
Mark 8: 31-38

February 2017 Servers

	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Leaders
Feb. 4	Karen Altpeter	Brenda Reiter	Grant Tiefenbruck
Feb. 11	Carlotta Mullins	Browns	Marcia Caneff
Feb. 18	Kristin Blevins	Christians	Marcia Rash
Feb. 25	Mary Crawmer	Humes	Dennis Brown

Communion Preparers: Becky Tiefenbruck and Carolyn Blumeyer
 Communion Server: Grant Tiefenbruck

Session Minutes for November 27, 2017

A stated meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, MN was held at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the church on November 27, 2017. The Deacons were also invited to attend this meeting.

The meeting began at 6:00 PM when Moderator Reverend Dr. Stephen Robertson called the meeting to order. Karen led the devotion, "Following the Star!" She read Psalm 80 1:3. Karen then opened the meeting with prayer.

Elders Present:

Class of 2018: Grant Tiefenbruck, Dave Hume

Class of 2019: Dennis Brown, Mary Crawmer

Class of 2020: Karen Altpeter, Brenda Reiter

Absent: None!

Also Present: Marcia Rash, Denise Dunbar Perkins, **Deacons:** Margaret Brown, Becky Tiefenbruck, Helen Ott, Carolyn Blumeyer, Shannon Stenzel, Sonia Christian

Introductions were made all around. Then there was a brief discussion about how things are going. Responses included: more life, enjoying familiar hymns, upstairs or downstairs worship, Lord's Prayer style, other church issues. Generally, the comments were favorable.

Clerk's Report: There were no corrections to the October meeting minutes. The clerk reported that he'll be working on the end of the year reporting to presbytery and GA.

Treasurer's Report: GA mission pledge was paid. We may be able forego the usual transfer from the Foundation in December. Grant to email Bob Albright about this. A proposed budget including a CE line item was presented. M/S/C to adopt it. For the moment, Steve can do the double entry bookkeeping for the few checks that we write. M/S/C to make this the plan. Payroll continues through Paychex. Budget summary attached.

Foundation Report - None

Pastor's Report – Steve – He took some vacation time to visit his mother in Florida. In November, he and Susan visited Los Angeles in conjunction with a financial networking meeting of presbytery and synod treasurers.

Presbytery Meeting: The next Presbytery meeting will be on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at Church of the Apostles in Bloomington. Dennis was elected commissioner to Presbytery for this meeting.

Deacons -Becky Tiefenbruck – Christmas Caroling on December 17th with a light lunch to be provided. Quarterly meetings for the Deacons will resume in February.

M/S/C to receive all of the reports above.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds – Dennis – Nothing new this month.

Fellowship – Brenda – Nothing new.

Christian Education – No report

Mission – Mary – Generic Christmas gifts for Hastings Family Services. Mary to check details.

Stewardship/Finance – Nothing else to discuss.

Worship – Karen – The Tiefenbrucks will usher at the Christmas Eve Service and the Rashes will be greeters. Mary will be the communion server on Sunday, December 3. M/S/C to purchase an ad in the Hastings Gazette with an included mailing for about \$80. There will be Sunday morning worship on Christmas Eve.

Nominating – Grant – the group is getting started on the task at hand. Marcia Rash for elder, Helen Ott and Carolyn Blumeyer will take a second term on Deacons.

M/S/C to receive the committee reports.

Old Business – None

New Business – Steve had coffee with the interim at the UCC church in Prescott and heard that they were thinking about their future, too. There are many things to think about. How do we go forward from here? M/S/C to initiate an inquiry process with Prescott UCC. Karen, Grant, Becky, and Brenda would participate in a conversation with the Prescott folks.

Annual meeting of the congregation will be held on January 21, 2018.

There will be a stated meeting of Session on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the church.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Steve at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Tiefenbruck
Clerk of Session

February

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2  Groundhog Day  Bernice Wittkopf	3 Community Blood Drive  St. Luke's 9 AM - 3 PM
4 10:30 Worship w/Communion Ordination and Installation of Deacons/Elders	5	6	7 Youth Group Game Night 6:45 PM	8	9	10  Fran Jauquet  Arthur Whipple
11 10:30 Worship	12  Lincoln	13 Session 6:30 PM	14 Happy Valentine's Day  Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM	15  Alexandra Norcross	16	17
18 10:30 Worship	19  PRESIDENT'S DAY	20	21  Kathryn Norris	22  Washington  Ann Lewis	23	24
25 10:30 Worship Bells of the Bluff Handbell Concert 2 PM	26  Chris Derose Most	27	28			