

# More Good News

**Feb. 2018**

**Volume 19, #3**

## March at a Glance

### March 4

10:30 AM Worship  
w/ Communion

### March 1, 8, 15, and 22

Bell Practice 6:00 PM

### March 6

Session 6:30

### March 7

Youth Group at Park Ridge  
6:45 PM

### March 11

Daylight Savings Time Begins  
10:30 AM Worship  
Easter Flower order due

### March 15

Newsletter Deadline

### March 19

9:30 Bell choir practice  
10:30 Worship

### March 25

10:30 Worship  
One Great Hour of Sharing  
offering received

### March 29

Maundy Thursday service 7 PM  
Bell choir practice

## From the Pastor's Desk

As I write this, I am preparing for the Ash Wednesday worship service. We are beginning our journey through Lent, toward Easter.

I recently heard an interview with Terri Gross on NPR of a woman, who in her late 30s, was diagnosed with late-stage cancer. She is married, has a young son, and was progressing well on her career as a faculty member at Duke Divinity School. Perhaps what struck me the most were her comments reflecting on the question of “why Lent?”

She noted that our human tendency is to jump past the difficult parts of the life of Christ and the messiness of the Holy Week story and to run right toward the joy of Easter morning. But as she explained it, she now lives in the uncertainty and difficulty of Lent. Her experience with cancer has put her whole life into a stage in which she feels trapped in the here and now. She has a hard time moving into the spirit of Easter when her life is mired in Lent and Holy Week.

Why Lent? The season of Lent reminds all of us as Christian believers that we live our lives in the spirit of hope

and expectation that is Lent. If we try to rush to the joy of Easter morning without the extended journey in the wilderness of Lent, we deny ourselves the full expression of our present circumstance. We live our lives in the season of Lent, when illness strikes, when finances won't balance, when children are challenging, and when life is like the smudge of ashes from the Ash Wednesday service. The season of Lent reminds us that we are living in a time of hope and promise, not a time of final fulfillment.

Like this young woman on NPR, we need the church season of Lent. Not just to prepare ourselves for Easter, but to remind ourselves that about condition of our present lives. It is the way we live: hopeful for a new tomorrow, a renewed sense of purpose, and a longing for the future that is promised to us all. We journey through the season of Lent, toward the promise of Easter.

It may seem a bit odd to say, "Enjoy Lent." But I do hope these weeks of spiritual preparation will make the joy of Easter morning just that much more complete!

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](mailto:stevempls@icloud.com)



## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP



Plan to be a part of this special Holy Week worship service as we gather at the communion table to commemorate the last supper in the Upper Room which Jesus had with his disciples. Then we will journey spiritually to the Garden of Gethsemane as Jesus begins his time of torture and trail.

*(Note: The Hastings Ministerial Association has determined to forego the traditional Good Friday Ecumenical Service this year.)*

### Sunday, April 1 at 10:30 am



Our celebration of the resurrection will include our own church's Bell Choir, special music, and the good news of hope that comes to us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will also have our Easter Breakfast before church. Plan to be in worship that Sunday, and invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us for worship.

### Easter Flowers



It is time to think about decorating our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. There are order forms available on the kiosk to place your orders and also to indicate a memorial or honoree of the flowers. Orders will be due on Sunday March 11th and checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. For further information please contact Marcia Rash.





**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead when you go to bed on March 10th.**

**Youth Group Game Night** – Middle and High School youth will gather on **Wednesday, March 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.



### **Bell Choir Schedule**



Thursday March 1	6 PM	Practice
Thursday March 8	6 PM	Practice
Thursday March 15	6 PM	Practice
Sunday March 18	9:30 AM	Practice
Thursday March 22	6 PM	Practice
Thursday March 29	TBA	Practice
Sunday April 1 (Easter)	9:30 AM	Practice & Play
Thursday April 5	6 PM	Practice
Thursday April 12	6 PM	Practice
Sunday April 15	9:30 AM	Practice
Thursday April 19	6 PM	Practice
Thursday April 26	6 PM	Practice
Sunday April 29	9:30 AM	Practice & Play



*Thanks to all for the special prayers, cards, phone calls, food, and visits. A special thanks to Steve and Karen for their trips to the hospital. Also a thanks to Karen for getting John from the hospital in spite of the weather. We are grateful and appreciate the concerns you all have for us during this long health issue. We are blessed to have a wonderful church family.*

*Thanks again and God Bless,  
John & Carolyn Blumeyer*



**One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering**  
To be received on Palm Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Presbyterian Women of our Presbytery invite you to their Spring Gathering to be held Saturday, April 28 from 9 am to 3 PM at First Presbyterian Church in Rochester. The cost is \$15 and registration forms will be available in the Spring Issue of CONNECTIONS newsletter, which will be mailed to the church the week of March 26.

## 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

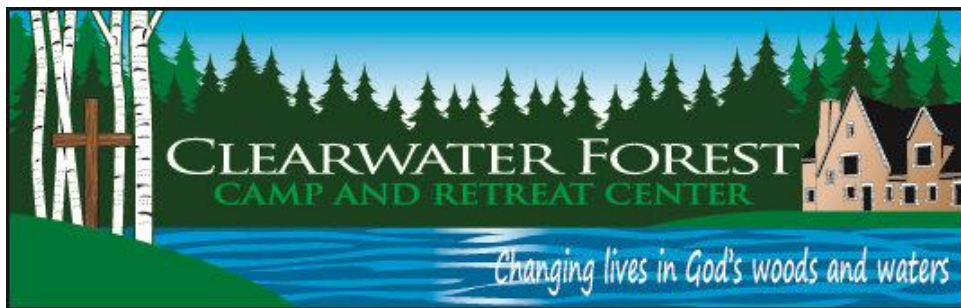


Held once every three years, Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering is an opportunity for Presbyterian women from across the country (and around the world!) to gather for worship, education, community-building, fun and renewal. Participants will enjoy workshops, tours, forums, plenary sessions with inspiring speakers and worship. PW's triennial Business Meeting—where budget, leadership and programmatic emphases will be decided—takes place in conjunction with the Gathering. The Gathering begins on Thursday, August 2, 2018, and concludes on Sunday, August 5, 2018. It will be held all under one roof at the Galt House in Louisville, Kentucky. Optional tours and events will visit local Presbyterian, mission-focused and cultural sites, but there's more than enough planned in the Galt House to keep you busy for the whole Gathering! Full registration is \$425. Daily registration is \$125 per day. Hotel, travel and some meals are additional. A limited number of reimbursable leadership development grants are available to help with Gathering costs. Also consider applying for (or donating to!) scholarships through your PW in the Congregation, Presbytery or Synod. To register, go to [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering).

## Garage Sale



It is several months yet to the garage sale, but now is the time to start setting aside items for it. We take almost anything with these limitations: 1) You must sign for larger items. If the item doesn't sell, it costs us to get rid of it; 2) If you would not buy it, do not bring it -- items must be clean, and in relatively good condition. Trash will not sell and again will cost us money to dispose of it. Start thinking now of ways for this to be one of our best garage sale ever!



Summer is coming, and so are summer camps and other programs at Clearwater Forest, the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center in Deerwood, MN. This year's camp theme is "Light the Fire – Changing the World with the light of Christ!" Registration is now open for the summer camps and family conferences. Look for more information on the kiosk at church, or got to [www.clearwaterforest.org](http://www.clearwaterforest.org) for more information or to register.

## Elder Abuse Support Group

The Hastings Area Senior Center in collaboration with the MN Elder Justice Center is offering a community support group for family, friends, and individuals affected by elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. It meets at the Tilden Community Center on the 4th Monday of the month. For more info, contact the Greater Hastings Community Education or Hastings Area Senior Center.

## THE RECIPE CORNER

In the Recipe Corner, we will be sharing our favorite recipies, but I need your recipies in order to continue this feature. Please send your recipies to Becky Tiefenbruck at [mrsbect@gmail.com](mailto:mrsbect@gmail.com) or put them in the newsletter box in the office.

### Crockpot Lasagna

(Servings Per Recipe: 8)

submitted by Becky Tiefenbruck

#### Ingredients:

1 medium-size onion  
2 cloves garlic minced  
1 pound ground turkey  
1 teaspoon dried oregano  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teapoon black pepper  
15 ounce part-skim ricotta  
8 ounces reduced-fat Italian-blend shreddd cheese  
10 ounce frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry  
12 lasagna noodles (1 ounces) broken in half  
25 ounce chunky tomato sauce (I use a jar of spagetti sauce)

#### Directions:

1. Coat slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray. Stir toether onion, garlic, turkey, oregano, and salt and pepper; set aside.
2. In a smallbowl, stir together rictta 1 cup of the shredded cheese, and the spinach.
3. In the slow cooker bowl, layer about 8 of the uncooked noodle halves, overlapping as necessary. Spread half of both the meat mixture and ricotta mixtue over the noodles, then top with 1 up of the tomato sauce and 1/4 cup water. Continue to layer with remaining noodles, meat mixture, ricotta mixture, 2 cups of tomato sauce and an additional 1/4 cup water. Top with 8 noodle halves and remaining 1/2 cup tomato sauce.
4. Cover and cook on HIGH for 4 hours or LOW for 5 1/2 hours. Sprinkle remaining 1 cup shredded cheese on top for last 30 minutes of cooking time or until melted.





## **Creator of the Earth and Skies**

by

Donald W. Hughes (1911-1967)

Creator of the earth and skies,  
To whom all truth and power belong,  
Grant us your truth to make us wise;  
Grant us your power to make us strong.

We have not known you: to the skies  
Our monuments of folly soar,  
And all our self-wrought miseries  
Have made us trust ourselves the more.

We have not loved you: far and wide  
The wreckage of our hatred spreads,  
And evils wrought by human pride

Recoil on unrepentant heads.  
We long to end this worldwide strife:  
How shall we follow in your way?  
Speak to mankind your words of life,  
Until our darkness turns to day.



## Bible Readings This Month

### March 4

*Ex. 20: 1-17*  
*Ps. 19*  
*1 Cor. 1: 1-25*  
*John 2: 13-22*



### March 11

*Num. 21: 4-9*  
*Ps. 107: 1-3, 17-22*  
*Eph. 2: 1-10*  
*John 3: 14-21*

### March 18

*Jer. 31: 31-34*  
*Ps. 51: -12 or*  
*Ps. 119: 9-16*  
*Heb. 5: 5-10*  
*John 12: 20-33*

### March 25 - Palm Sunday

*Ps. Mark 11: 1-11 or John 12: 12-16*  
*Ps. 118: 1-2, 19-29*  
**Passion:**  
*Isa. 50: 4-9a*  
*Ps. 31: 9-16*  
*Phil. 2: 5-11*  
*Mark 14: 1-15: 47 or Mark 15: 1-39 (40-47)*

## March 2018 Servers

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Lay Leaders</b>
<b>March 4</b>	Tayson/Wittkopf	Judy Becker	Kristin Blevins
<b>March 11</b>	Brenda Reiter	Rashes	Becky Tiefenbruck
<b>March 18</b>	Tiefenbrucks	Browns	Karen Altpeter
<b>March 25</b>	Christians	Mary Crawmer	Marcia Caneff

Communion preparers: Becky Tienbruck and Carolyn Blumeyer  
 Communion Server: Dennis Brown

## Session Minutes for January 2, 2018

**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 January 2, 2018.**

The meeting began at 6:00 PM when Moderator Reverend Dr. Stephen Robertson called it to order. Grant led the devotion, based upon 2Samuel 7:1-11, 16. God doesn't need us to build temples, but wants us to have thankful hearts. Grant, 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!

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

**Treasurer's Report:** At the end of the year, the budget showed a net profit of \$28,845. That is deceiving because the church vitality grant, \$13,000 and 2018 pledges paid early of \$11,000 are also included in the 2017 income. Tithes and offerings for the year almost reached \$61,000! For the moment the checking account is flush with cash.

**Foundation Report - None**

**Pastor's Report – Steve – No one knows what the Pastor does around Christmas. 12**

**Presbytery Meeting:** The next Presbytery meeting will be on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Woodbury, MN. Dennis was elected commissioner to Presbytery for this meeting.

**Deacons - Becky Tiefenbruck – No report**

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

### **Committee Reports**

**Building and Grounds – Dennis – WiFi Link between us and KDWA hasn't been working. This be resolved this week by workers from the radio station. Looking at new supply of candles for the front of the church. M/S/C to authorize Dennis to get us a mounting system for a locked mailbox. The condensate pump for the furnace has been replaced.**

**Fellowship – Brenda – Potluck dinner on January 21st**

**Christian Education** – No report

**Mission** – Mary – Heifer Project collection finale will be on 2/14. The goal of pigs, goats and sheep is \$120, while the stretch goal for a water buffalo is \$250.

**Stewardship/Finance** – Nothing else to discuss.

**Worship** – Karen – Worship will be in Fellowship Hall 1/14 thru 2/11. The signup sheet for Communion servers was circulated.

**Nominating** – Grant – The slate of candidates for election at the annual meeting are Marcia Rash and Grant Tiefenbruck for elder, Carolyn Blumeyer and Helen Ott for deacon, and Leo Schumacher and Jean Hume for Foundation Director. Still working on congregation members for the Nominating Committee.

M/S/C to receive the committee reports.

**Old Business** – None.

**New Business** – Bells of the Bluff concert will be held on 2/25 in the Sanctuary. We shall provide an honorarium and a free will offering.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on January 21, 2018. Steve's sermon will essentially be the Pastor's report. We'll plan to eat while we meet. Get material in for the Annual Report ASAP.

Steve shared with us the draft of a letter that is going to be sent encouraging members to pay their Per Capita to support the work of the denomination.

M/SC to send Steve's letter about Per Capita to the entire congregation.

Items for the February Newsletter include:

Heifer project deadline on 2/14

Ash Wednesday worship service on 2/14

Bells of the Bluff concert on 2/25

The next stated meeting of Session will be on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the church. Mary Crawmer will lead the devotion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Tiefenbruck  
Clerk of Session

# MARCH

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 Bell Choir 6 PM	2 	3  Jean Hume
4 10:30 Worship w/Communion	5	6  Session 6:30 PM	7	8 Bell Choir 6:00 PM  Mary Crawmer  Tim Dymacek	9  Hannah Bodick  Hans Most	10
11 10:30 Worship Easter flower order due 	12  Judy Becker	13	14  Susan Fagnant	15 Bell Choir 6:00 PM	16	17 
18 Bell Choir 9:30 AM 10:30 Worship	19	20 	21	22 Bell Choir 6:00 PM  Kaitlyn Gustafson	23	24
25  10:30 Worship  Jesse Ott	26  Lee Rash	27	28  Koleta Preece	29 Bell Choir TBA 	30	31





**First Presbyterian Church**

**602 Vermillion Street**

**Hastings, MN 55033**