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First Presbyterian Church, I have placed our WONDERFUL supply of undies and leggings/sweatpants away in our baskets. Your church is so kind, thoughtful and amazing for donating the clothing to the health office at Reede Gray. It is definitely a need and something that gets used almost daily!

Thank you again, Anna Thomes/Redwood Area Schools



Thank you to Ruby's Pantry for the donation of juice boxes and goldfish to the Nursery. If you would like to donate snack items to the Nursery please feel free to contact the Christian Education Committee; Becky Bruns, Ann Tiffany, Marlys Mathiowetz, Rev. Pamela Prouty, Connie Bentson or Dorie Oja.



The Piecemakers donated a total of 45 quilts to help warm the homeless (24 to Jeff Schmidt and his project) and to the Morgan FoodShelf (21).

Thank you for all you do!



CALLING ALL SENIORS

Graduation is just around the corner and you've been making plans for where you'll be continuing your education next fall! We want to remind you that your church offers a wonderful scholarship to assist with some of those growing bills that come along with higher education. The Memorial Committee will be mailing out a letter detailing the application requirements and other scholarship details. FPC Seniors can look for this letter to arrive the week of March 19 and application deadline will be April 13. If you have any questions about the scholarship, contact a Memorial Committee member: Marlys Verdoes, Shari Fuhr, Bob Brown, Maynard Nolting & Nathan Stephens

During worship on May 6, we will honor you, our graduating seniors. Our tradition has been to show a powerpoint slide show of your time at Church. **We need pictures, we can't make a photo slideshow without photos!** Please submit a graduation picture, a picture of your baptism, a baby picture and other pictures of your involvement in/at Church activities by March 31! Please note... These photos can be from any Church activities, not just activities here at our Church. We also need a baptism date/location/Pastor. The best way to submit your photos is by emailing them to Tina at churchofc@hotmail.com. You may also drop them off in the office mailbox, please be sure to label your photos so they may be returned to you.

A lot of time and work goes into preparing for this service, so please inform the Church office by March 23 of your attendance! If we do not hear from you we will assume you won't be in attendance.

If you have questions, please chat with Pastor Pam Prouty.

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 *Breakfast (Costa Rica Mission Trip) *Worship with Holy Communion	2 *Pastor - Rotary *Mission Committee Meeting	3 *Committee Meetings	4 *Piecemakers *Youth Club *Meal *Youth Faith in Action	5	6	7 *Confirmation - Brunch @ Manse
				Presbytery Transformation Conference in St. Cloud April 5-7		
8 *Breakfast/Sunday School *Choir Practice *Worship *May Friendship Dinner Planning Meeting	9 Pastor - Louisville April 8 (Evening) - 11	10	11 *Youth Club *Meal *Youth Faith in Action	12 *Rummage Sale *Deacon Meeting	13 Church Office Closed *Pastor - Meeting *Rummage Sale	14 *Rummage Sale
15 *Breakfast/Sunday School *Confirmation Meets Session *Choir Practice *Worship *Packing Weekend Food Bags	16 *Pastor - Rotary *Pastor - Conference Call *Session Meeting	17 *Pastor - Visits *Ruby's Pantry	18 *Piecemakers *Dorcas Circle *Youth Club *Meal *Youth Faith in Action	19	20	21
22 *Breakfast/Sunday School *Confirmation Pictures *Choir Practice *Worship with Holy Communion - Confirmation Sunday	23 *Pastor - Rotary	24 *Pastor - Visits	25 Last Night *Youth Club *Meal *Youth Faith in Action	26 *Scott - Presbytery Conference Call	27	28
29 *Breakfast/Sunday School *Choir Practice *Worship - Youth Sunday *Packing Weekend Food Bags	30 *Pastor - Rotary					

Pastor's Visitation Schedule

If Pastor Scott is unable to meet, you will be notified. If you are unable to meet at the designated time, please let the Pastor Scott know as soon as possible so other arrangements may be made. You may call his home phone at 627-5486.

Thank you.

April

Thursday, April 5:

Communion Taken To:

Gordon & Ardis Alexander,
Muriel Moon, Millie Bunting,
Darlene Garrison & Janet Minkel

Visits:

3:00 pm: Lucille Byram
4:00 pm: Maynard & Joyce Nolting

Tuesday, April 17:

9:30 am: Wayne & Rosemary Bennett
11:00 am: Wayne Mann
Noon: Merlin Goudy
1:30 pm: Gary & Jenifer Hindt
3:00 pm: Scott & Joyce Goodyear
4:15 pm: Dorothy Symes

Tuesday, April 24:

9:00 am: Rick & Fran Hauge
10:00 am: Karen Speros
11:00 am: Todd & Kathy Peterson
2:00 pm: Marlys Mathiowetz
3:00 pm: Tim & Lois Davis
4:00 pm: Dale & Sandy Starr

May

Thursday, May 3:

9:30 am: Gordon & Ardis Alexander
10:30 am: Muriel Moon
11:10 am: Millie Bunting
2:00 pm: Darlene Garrison
3:00 pm: Lucille Byram
4:00 pm: Maynard & Joyce Nolting

Thursday, May 10:

9:00 am: Sally Dording
10:00 am: Patty Rohne
11:00 am: Janet Minkel
2:00 pm: Judy Curtis
3:00 pm: Larry & Sue Wessels
4:00 pm: David & Adrienne Danielson

Thursday, May 17:

Noon: Jeanette Kotval

April Greeters

Deacon of Month: Lynn Juell

Easter: Jim Palmer/Patty Rohne
4/8: Merlin Goudy/Kim McKay
4/15: Larry & Sue Wessels/Don & Lorrie Quinn
4/22: Sue Osborne/Shelby Enright
4/29: Nikki VanderLinden & Ivis Robertson/Brenda Johnson

Our **May Friendship Dinner** will be planned and prepared by families of our congregation with the last names starting with **F-J**. These families are asked to meet in the Parlor on **Sunday, April 8**, following worship. If you are unable to attend this meeting please keep in contact with your group!

April Friendship Dinner

Sunday, April 15

5-6:30 pm

Menu: Tatar-tot hot-dish and bars

April Communion Servers

**Shari Fuhr, Deb Hess, Becky Bruns,
Lynn Juell, Nancy Miller, Marlys Mathiowetz,
Shellie Mammen**

April Ushers

Head Usher: Mark Oja

Maynard & Joyce Nolting, Bob Kaupang,
Nancy, Jared & Justin Miller, Curt Meyers,
Shane & JoAnne Carroll

Youth Dates to Remember

Confirmation Sunday

April 22

Last Night of Wednesday Night Activities

April 25

Youth Sunday

April 29

Graduation Sunday

May 6

Last Morning of Sunday Activities

May 13

April
Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1st - Bob Brown
- 3rd - Gerry Patten, Judy Curtis
- 5th - Bunny Nolting, Diane Davis
- 7th - Chip Nearing, Amanada Milhausen
Pete & Dody Fuhr
- 9th - Marilyn Fuhr
- 11th - Bob Rebstock, Kay Jensen, Jenny Jansen
- 12th - Grant Norgaard
- 16th - Matt Tiffany, Mike Bentson
- 17th - Cassi Juell
- 19th - Elizabeth Prouty
- 20th - Don Dagner, Carter Wittman
- 21st - Leon King
- 22nd - Faith Bruns
- 24th - Joyce McKay
- 25th - **Butch & Faythe Amberg**
- 27th - Logan Garman
- 28th - Nathan Jacobson
- 29th - Paige Paplow, Kathy Peterson, Eliza Bentson
- 30th - **Richard & Diane Aakre**



Easter Flowers

If you have Easter flowers you would like to share with us for Easter morning worship, please bring them with you next Sunday or drop them off next week in the kitchen.

Thank you!



Congratulation Meyers family on your new addition. 9 lbs. 6 oz. 21.5 inch long Rhys Eugene Meyers was born on Tuesday, March 13, in New Ulm.

A blue-bordered box containing a cartoon illustration of a baby sitting on the floor playing with colorful blocks. To the right of the illustration is a congratulatory message in bold red text.

Easter Breakfast

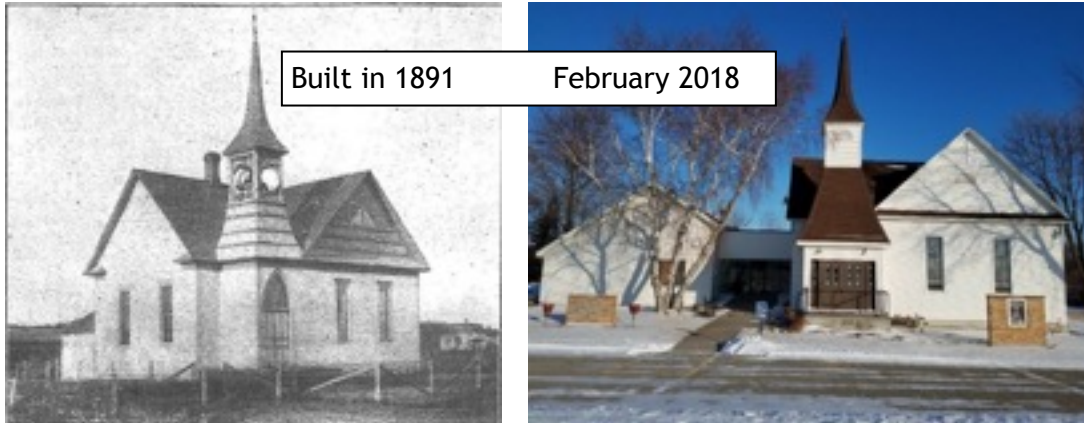
The Mission Service Team (MST) Costa Rica will be serving a light breakfast from 8:30-9:45 on Easter Sunday. Please join us before the worship service for egg bake, muffins/breads, juice/coffee! Bring your family and guests! A free will offering will be taken to help support service projects and activities during the team's upcoming mission trip to Costa Rica in July.

A decorative border of colorful Easter eggs in various patterns and colors surrounds the text. In the bottom left corner, there is a cluster of green grass blades.

Harrison Community Presbyterian Church/Spicer, MN

To Friends & Family, We, the members of the Harrison Community Presbyterian Church of Spicer, Minnesota are celebrating the church's 150th Anniversary and would like to invite your congregation to come celebrate with us. We are Kandiyohi County's oldest English-speaking church. We will be celebrating on Sunday, May 20, with a program/open house starting at 1:30-3 pm, with coffee and cake served. We would be honored to have you here to celebrate with us.

~ Harrison Community Presbyterian Church



Hi Scott. Thanks to you and the FPC congregation for faithfully supporting Presbyterian Mission in South Sudan through the South Sudan Education & Peace-building Project. I'm writing to let you know that others like you are considering traveling to Juba, South Sudan to experience the country first-hand and, among other things, to: (1) discover how God is at work there through the PC(USA) and our partners; (2) seek to understand current issues and challenges; (3) meet our Presbyterian mission co-workers and learn about their ministries; (4) experience the hope of lives being transformed. It would be a challenging trip, in terms of travel and accommodations and, of course, the security situation in South Sudan is very volatile, as it is a country at war. We would have to depend on our mission co-workers living in country to determine whether it is safe at the time of the trip. That said, it would also be an incredible opportunity for spiritual and missional engagement. The timeframe currently being considered for this trip is the first quarter of 2019, and the group would be accompanied by Debbie Braaksma, Africa Area Coordinator for World Mission. The size of the group would be six ideally, and a maximum of eight. Plans will need to be made soon to allow for adequate preparation, so we need a decision no later than Friday, April 13. Please let me know if anyone from FPC is interested and I will send additional information.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Rhonda K. Kruse (Mission Engagement Advisor–Midwest Presbyterian Mission)

A Note From The Pastor: Our church has been supporting Presbyterian Co-Workers in Sudan. We received a letter telling us of a mission trip to Sudan in January of 2019 made up of churches that are supporting this ministry. The letter reminded us that Sudan is a country at war. The travel conditions and accommodations would be very difficult. I read the letter to the congregation on Sunday, March 18, and immediately three 7 to 8 year old boys from our congregation volunteered to go on the trip. If Asher, August and AJ can't bring peace to a nation who can?



Rummage and Bake Sale!

It's time to clean out all those spaces full of your extra stuff for the annual rummage sale, April 12th -14th at the church. All the profits from the rummage sale and bake sale will support mission projects including our Mission Service Team traveling to Costa Rica this summer as well as Ruby's Pantry, the Reede Gray Clothes Closet and the Apple Gourd Project. Your gently used, clean items can make their way into the side dining room starting Sunday, April 8. Baked goods are welcome this year as well! Please bring them to the church kitchen Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. If possible, have them ready to sell on plates or in containers. We will price them for you.

The sale will run on Thursday and Friday, Noon-6 pm and Saturday from 9 am-noon. If you have questions, please chat with Pastor Pam or Ann Tiffany.

"God's Timeless Love Transforms...."

An important aspect of worship is celebrating the ways God is working in and transforming our lives. Following Easter, we will begin regularly incorporating a short time called "God's Timeless Love Transforms...." into our worship services. This will be a time to give thanks for God's good work in our lives, the life of the church and the world by giving testimony to that work. Some weeks a member of the church might share a personal story about how God has changed his life, another week we might share the story of one of the missions our church supports, later someone might share a way our church in particular has helped to grow her faith; the common thread will be the lifting up of specific ways God's love is transforming us, our church and the world. Of course, this means we will be asking for your stories of God's transforming love. The worship committee will contact people with a question like "How have you experienced God's love through the life of this church?" or "Please share about a way God's love has transformed you?" or "Please share about a time someone made a difference in your life by being generous.". Please don't panic 😊 No one will be forced to participate in this time of testimony of course. But we do believe that everyone in the church family has a story to tell, and we would all be blessed to hear and celebrate everyone's story of God's transforming love. Folks who would like to share may give their testimonies themselves, or write them down for another person to read aloud during worship. We look forward to hearing your stories!

-The Worship Committee

The True Meaning of Easter

If you ask children what Easter is about, they might say something about the Easter bunny. It's a pervasive story. It is not very persuasive or compelling, but cute and seemingly harmless enough. But the story of the Easter bunny tends to displace a much more compelling Story. A true Story. An Amazing Story that I'd like to tell you right now in a few words. The Amazing Story concerns a man, a carpenter who lived 2,000 years ago in an obscure Roman province in a town called Nazareth. At age 30, the Man hung up his leather carpenter's apron and began to speak publicly up and down the countryside. Religious leaders were ambivalent at best. Most felt deeply threatened, because this ex-carpenter taught in huge outdoor meetings with compelling authority -- and he healed people. Not just colds and fevers, but crippled limbs and blind eyes. On two occasions, he even brought people back from the dead.

The religious leaders saw their orderly world spinning out of their control. And so they determined to eliminate the Man. They infiltrated his inner circle so they could grab him away from public view. And once in custody, they engineered a trial behind closed doors, and then put huge political pressure on the Roman governor to execute him immediately. Within 12 hours of his arrest, the Man hung on a cross. Six hours later he was dead -- seemingly a martyr to a glorious but hopeless cause. But there's more. The Man did not resist his arrest and crucifixion -- in fact, he had predicted it to his followers again and again. And he taught that his death would have incredible meaning -- that he would give his life as a ransom for many. That is, his death would pay the ransom price for a multitude of people who were enslaved by their own sins -- and set them free. That's what he said. And on that cross he prayed for his crucifiers -- certainly enslaved in their sins -- "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." And he died. A Roman centurion who saw him die said, "Surely, this man was the Son of God."

He died on a Friday at just about three in the afternoon. By dusk he had been buried by a rich follower in a tomb hollowed out of solid rock, a tomb protected by a huge stone that rolled into place along a channel in the rock, then clunk! The tomb was secure. Friday night and all day Saturday his cold body lay there. But Sunday morning, the Sunday we call Easter, some women had come to complete the hasty burial and they found the stone rolled back and the tomb empty. An angel appeared to them saying, "He is not here, he has risen." This, too, the Man, Jesus, had foretold to his followers.

Over the next 40 days, he appeared to his disciples and others, to even 500 at one time. And then he left planet earth promising to return. His Spirit was poured out on his followers a few days later. Within a single generation his followers travelled with the Amazing Story to all of the known world. Our world has never been the same. Because where people believe the Story, they find forgiveness and freedom and meaning. They receive the Spirit of God themselves and they began to love.

The Story we tell is a life-transforming Story. If we would tell it to our children and grandchildren, they would find that it is much more compelling than any Easter bunny tale. The only appeal it lacks to your children -- and to our desperately needy world -- is a few Easter Eggs and some candy. Tell the Amazing Story. It changes lives.

Pastor Scott Prouty

Youth For Christ

The YFC Spring Banquet will be on May 6, at the RACC, 12pm with lunch provided--we are hoping some of you folks will come out to hear stories of local kids impacted by area ministries! There is also a bake sale which will help teens go to camp. In our digital age I have scanned many old photographs and now we have thousands of photos of kids dating back 36 years. We invite guests to take whatever they want so we can continue to downsize our office storage space. Please RSVP for the banquet or contact us if you would like to help participate in the bake sale. call us at 637-8140 (leave a message if no answer) or email chris@yfcminnesota.com(preferred) with name and number of guests.

Generosity of Talent

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."-Ephesians 2:10

Our church is chalk-full of talented people. Every Christmas I give thanks to God for Gerry Patten's ability to transform a room, his way of turning our sanctuary into a special place to celebrate the birth of our Savior. A couple weeks ago Dave said to me, as he was picking up a cute little craft Simon had made in Sunday school, "Lindsey is a such a good Sunday school teacher. She always has the kids do fun things." During worship a few weeks ago, I was moved to tears by the choir's performance of "Be Thou My Vision". I could go on and on describing, and giving thanks for, the various talents of the people in this church family. The truth is though (thanks be to God!) every congregation is full of talented people. In fact, every neighborhood, every school, every workplace is full of talented people. **God does not create untalented people!** We are all "God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do". Does this feel true to you? Are you able to see in yourself and in others the unique abilities God gifted to you and to them? Hopefully you are!

Some of us though, are not sure just what "good work" God has created us to do. If you are not yet able to identify your God-given talents take a little time right now to explore what they might be. What are you happiest doing? What are you good at? How do these things intersect with the needs of your family, friends, neighbors, church, community, and the world? Maybe you cannot draw very well but you feel relaxed and satisfied when you are cleaning. Maybe you feel you would not be good at teaching Sunday school, but you do love to sit down and write letters to friends and family members. Is God able to use the satisfaction you get from cleaning and your ability to write thoughtful letters to build up His Kingdom? Absolutely He is! He created you that way. And, He desires for you to use those talents to do "good works". You could bless an unwell neighbor by taking an afternoon to vacuum, dust and wash windows for her. Perhaps, also, you could use your letter-writing skills to encourage a man or woman in jail who feels forsaken, or a refugee child who feels hopeless (If you would like to do either of these Google "Christian Pen Pals" or "Any Refugee").

We are all God's handiwork, created with special abilities and talents. We are all called to use those talents to grow the Kingdom of God. We need only open our minds to our innate abilities, and our eyes to the places in our homes, church, schools, workplaces, community, country, and the world where these abilities can glorify God and heal the broken places in His world.

O Lord, thank you for creating me exactly as you have. Thank you for the special abilities you have granted me. Please give me wisdom to see where I can use these talents for Your purposes, move me to action, and fill me with joy in doing Your work in the way that only I can. Amen.

Now Go and Do: Sit quietly with God for a few minutes. Meditate on the talents and abilities He created you with. Consider how you could use those talents to bless a person or a community. Commit to doing one Kingdom building thing with your talents this week (bake your famous apple pie for a new Mom in the neighborhood, inquire with the county about getting a foster care license so that you can provide respite care to foster families in the area, volunteer to take photos for a local non-profit, etc.).

Love, Your Generosity Project Team (Adrienne Danielson, Deb Hess and Shari Fuhr)

It is a Celebration!



2018 marks 15 years for The Piecemakers! We had our first meeting on May 21, 2003, and have spent the last 15 years cutting, pinning, tying and sewing. We have shared coffee/treats and stories while putting together quilts for many different occasions. We have had the privilege to make quilts many of you have purchased for yourselves or loved ones. We are also humbled to have made many quilts for those sick, hospitalized or just in need of something warm to snuggle.

In honor of 15 wonderful years we are going to raffle a quilt! Chances (\$1) will be available to purchase starting March 25. You can purchase them from Char,

Marlys or Tina in the office. The quilt will be on display in the Narthex until May 20!

Thank you to all those who have helped us along the way both in your talents! We wouldn't have had so much fun over the past years without each of you!



A Thank You From The Deacons

The Deacons would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you that donated both food and monetary donations for our March Food Shelf Drive! As most of you know, we used the month of March and the March Food Share Campaign to make a difference for our local food shelf, and it was a success thanks to all of you!

We kicked off our project with a Can vs Cash competition... Way to go team Cash!
\$285.00 was collected and 30 cans/items!

Week two Lynn Juell took the food items collected week one and came up with some really great recipes!

Week three was a "Hold Up", and boy was it a good one! Maynard Nolting made cute little gunny sacks giving Leon King and Dan Tiffany exactly what they needed to "Hold Up" the congregation for over \$700! You bandits did a great job!

Thank you again for all your wonderful donations! SO many families in our community will benefit from your generosity!

~ The Deacons

Lynn's Recipes

Spinach Tomato Orzo Soup - Angie McGowan

Here's a quick and easy dinner idea for those busy weeknights. This spinach and orzo soup can be made vegetarian by using vegetable instead of chicken stock and is so easy. Your just 6 ingredients away from "real fast food" that's actually nutritious and filling. If you want to add meat to this dish, chopped boneless skinless chicken breast, or Italian chicken sausage would be a great addition. I used chopped Italian tomatoes in this soup that have added oregano, basil and garlic as a time saver. If you only have chopped canned tomatoes on hand, just add one teaspoon each dried oregano and basil, and an additional clove of garlic.

Ingredients

1 large onion, chopped	2 cloves garlic, chopped	1 lb spinach
1 - 15 oz can diced Italian tomatoes (with oregano and basil)		1 lb package orzo pasta
2 quarts canned chicken or vegetable stock		2 quarts water

Method

1. Preheat a large soup. Drizzle with olive oil. Add onions and saute until tender. Add garlic and saute for 2 - 3 minutes. Add canned tomatoes, spinach, chicken or vegetable stock and water. Bring to a boil and reduce heat to medium.
2. Add orzo cook for 12 - 15 minutes, or until orzo is tender.

Corn and Black Bean Salad

Prep 10 m/Ready In 13 h 30 m

Recipe By: Jodi T.

Ingredients

1/4 cup balsamic vinegar	2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1/2 teaspoon salt	1/2 teaspoon white sugar
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper	1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro	1/2 teaspoon chili powder
1 (15 ounce) can black beans, rinsed and drained	1 (8.75 ounce) corn, drained

Directions

In a small bowl, mix together balsamic vinegar, oil, salt, sugar, black pepper, cumin, and chili powder. In a medium bowl, stir together black beans and corn. Toss with vinegar and oil dressing, and garnish with cilantro. Cover, and refrigerate overnight.



Great Grandma Juell's Favorite Welfare Cookies

1 cup of Sugar
1 cup of White Karo syrup
1 1/2 cups Peanut Butter
6 cups of crushed Corn Flakes
Get all materials ready, (including wax paper and cookie sheets)
Cook syrup and sugar until they boil, stirring constantly.

Add peanut butter stir until mixed well.
Add to the crushed corn flakes and drop on wax paper or cookie sheet.
If you run out of one kind of syrup use 2 kinds it still works good. Karo dark or light.