



CHIMES

March Newsletter

Friendship Dinner

Sunday, March 9, 11:30 am

- Everyone is welcome!
- Free
- Fellowship
- Sandwiches
- Salads



Contact

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out. Church contact information is below:

- scott_prouty@hotmail.com
- churchofc@hotmail.com
- 507-627-8751
- www.fpcrwf.org

Bloodmobile

Next Blood-drive Dates:

- April 21 & 22
- June 16 & 17
- August 18 & 19
- October 20 & 21
- December 15 & 16

Serving Your Church

Packing Weekend Food Bags

3/2: James Palmer Family

3/16: Bentson Family

3/30: Sharpe Family

Money Counters

March: Rick Hauge & Dan Tiffany

April: Michael Joldersma & Julia Fiala

March Ushers:

Head Usher: Leon King

Ushers: Butch & Faythe Amberg, Troy Amberg, Mark Oja, Rick Kramer & Jerilyn Kodet, Ryan, Lindsey & Knox Kramer

March Communion Servers:

Head Server: Adrienne Danielson

Servers: Leon King, Dave Danielson, Tony Miller, Bob & Sonya, Alexander, Dan Alexander

March Greeters:

Deacon of Month: Adrienne Danielson

3/2: Dan Alexander

3/9: Nick & Katherine Brozek

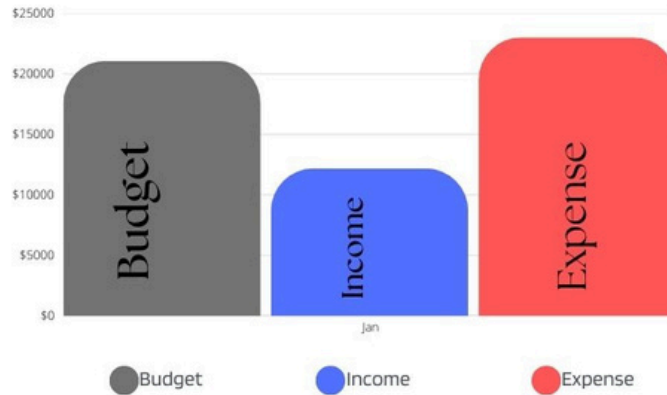
3/16: Matt & Kimary Tiffany

3/23: Rick Hauge

3/30: Nancy Miller

Financial Report

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Graph indicates as of 1/31/25

Budget: \$21,070.25

Income: \$12,185.00

Expense: \$23,013

Important Note to the Congregation

Meeting Our Budget Goal of \$250,000

Dear Congregation,

As we begin this fiscal year, we are reminded of the commitment and generosity that define our community. We are informing you that our church has set a budget goal of \$250,000 to support our various programs, missions, and activities.

This goal is crucial for us to continue our outreach efforts, maintain our facilities, and support our staff who work tirelessly to serve our congregation and the broader community. Reaching this milestone will enable us to enhance our youth programs, expand our charitable initiatives, and ensure that our church remains a beacon of hope and faith.

We kindly ask each member of our congregation to prayerfully consider how they can contribute to meet this goal. Every donation, no matter the size, is a valuable contribution to the collective effort of our community. We believe that with everyone's participation, we can achieve this target and continue to thrive as a congregation.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Together, let us make this goal a reality and further the mission of our church.

The per capita rate in 2025 is \$46.00 per church member, and we would like to encourage every active member to donate their own per capita expense. Per capita financially supports the higher church councils: our Presbytery, our Synod, and the PCUSA. These levels of connectivity are one of the things that make Presbyterianism unique. In a sense, per capita provides the glue that holds the Presbyterian Church together. Being a connectional church takes both the contribution of gifts to per capita and the work of pastors and elders who, together, advise, guide, and govern our General Assembly, synods, and presbyteries. There are envelopes in the middle of each pew to use and they can be put in the offering plate during the next few services or mailed to the office. If you do not use the envelopes, please put "per capita" in the memo field of your check. Thank you for taking responsibility in providing for our church's governance. Blessings, The Stewardship Committee

PER CAPITA. WHAT IS IT?

"Per capita" comes from Latin and means, "per person".

"Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the [mid councils] to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians" (GA Minutes, Part I, 1995).

In essence: Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system.

"Per Capita" is \$46.00 per member for 2025. The fee is divided up into three parts: \$29.66 to the Presbytery, \$5.50 to the Synod, and \$10.84 to the General Assembly.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>March</i>						1
2 S. School/ Choir Worship Weekend Food Bags	3	4	5 Piecemakers Youth Club Ash Wed Service	6	7	8
9 S. School/ Choir Worship Friendship Dinner	10	11 Pastor: Ministerial Meeting	12 Bible Studies Youth Club Deacon Meeting Pastor: Zoom Meeting	13 Pastor: GA Meeting	14 Pastor: GA Meeting	15
16 S. School/ Choir Worship Weekend Food Bags	17 Session Meeting	18 Pastor: Visits	19 Bible Studies Piecemakers Youth Club	20 Pastor: Visits	21	22
23 S. School/ Choir Worship	24 Pastor: Rotary Meetings	25	26 Bible Studies Youth Club	27 Pastor: Visits	28	29
30 S. School/ Choir Worship Weekend Food Bags	31					



Birthdays

1st: Kaden Hicks, Logan Moore,

Jacob Gertsema, Sydney Gertsema

2nd: Diedra Zaske

3rd: Stephanie Klavetter, Denise Kaupang,

Alex Tiffany

7th: Matthew Prouty

8th: Kim Becklund

9th: Doreen Steenblock, Becky Bruns

10th: Rachel Karnitz

11th: Stephen Dording, Pam Iverson, Ryan Rohlik

13th: Amber Rohlik, Rhys Meyers, Jackson Plotz

14th: Dan Kohler, Courtney Siegfried

15th: Fran Hauge, TJ Juell, Tara Steinkrans,

Fred Bloedow

16th: Ella Fuhr, Stacie Hicks,

Derek VanderLinden

21st: Beau Stough

22nd: Jonathan Sweetman

24th: Aubrie Milhausen

25th: Simon Danielson

27th: Brenda Becklund

Anniversaries

19th: Jenny & Mark Jansen

22nd: Kyle & Stacie Hicks

Don & Lorrie Quinn

PASTOR SCOTT'S VISITATION SCHEDULE

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR VISIT WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE

Mar. 18 Pastor Scott Takes Communion to:

Todd Peterson at 9:00 am

Pastor Scott Visits:

Lois Davis at 10:30 am

Doreen Steenblock at 2:00 pm

Kathy Peterson at 3:00 pm

Pastor Scott Takes Communion to:

Bunny Nolting at 4:00 pm

Mar. 20 Pastor Scott Takes Communion to:

Rosemary Bennett at 9:30 am

Pastor Scott Visits:

Merlin Goudy at 11:00 am

Dan Tiffany at 2:00 pm

Pastor Scott Takes Communion to:

Sue Tiffany at 3:30 pm

Mar. 27 Pastor Scott Visits:

Bob & Sonya Alexander at 10:30 am

Dave & Adrienne Danielson at 3:30 pm

Nick & Katherine Brozek at 7:00 pm

Apr. 1 Pastor Scott Visits:

Todd Peterson & Lois Tiffany at 9:30 am

Bunny Nolting at 11:00 am

Julie & Ernie Fiala at 2:00 pm

Scott & Joyce Goodyear at 3:30 pm

Apr. 3 Pastor Scott Takes Communion to:

Gerry & Deb Hess at 9:00 am

Marlys Verdoes at Noon

Apr. 8 Pastor Scott Visits:

Rosemary Bennett at 9:30 am

Merlin Goudy at 10:45 am

Dan Tiffany at 2:00 pm

Sue Tiffany at 3:30 pm

Apr. 22 Pastor Scott Visits:

Rick & Fran Hauge at 9:00 am

Kathy Peterson at 10:00 am

Doreen Steenblock at 11:00 am

Michael & Rhonda Joldersma at 7:00 pm

Why Do We Have an Ash Wednesday Service?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent for Christians, a time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal leading up to Easter. The day is significant for several reasons, rooted in both scripture and tradition.

The practice of Ash Wednesday can be traced back to the early Christian church, where the faithful would begin their Lenten journey with a public expression of repentance. During this service, priests apply ashes in the shape of a cross on the foreheads of participants. The ashes, which are often made from the burning of palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday, symbolize mortality, repentance, and humility.

The use of ashes is a reminder of the biblical theme of repentance. In the Old Testament, ashes were often associated with mourning, fasting, and acknowledging sin. Christians, too, use the ashes to symbolize their need for repentance and the recognition that life is fleeting. The traditional words spoken during the imposition of ashes, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," remind individuals of their mortality and the importance of turning back to God.

Ash Wednesday is also a time for Christians to begin a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and self-denial. This period mirrors the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert. By observing Ash Wednesday, Christians prepare themselves for Easter, reflecting on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and deepening their faith. It is a time for renewal, offering a chance to strengthen one's relationship with God through repentance and devotion.

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be on March 5 at 7 pm, led by Ruling Elder Adrienne Danielson.

Why Do We Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Was It Ever a Religious Holiday?

St. Patrick's Day, celebrated on March 17th, honors St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, and commemorates the day of his death in 461 AD. The holiday has become a global celebration of Irish culture, particularly in countries with large Irish communities, such as the United States, Canada, and the UK.

St. Patrick is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland in the 5th century. According to legend, he used a three-leafed clover, or shamrock, to explain the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—making the shamrock a symbol of the holiday. He is also said to have driven all the snakes out of Ireland, symbolizing the triumph of Christianity over paganism.

Originally a religious feast day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a secular celebration of Irish heritage and culture. People of Irish descent, as well as those who simply enjoy the festivities, take part in parades, wear green clothing or accessories, and enjoy Irish food and drinks, especially Guinness beer and Irish whiskey. Cities like Dublin, New York, and Boston host large parades, drawing millions of spectators.

The celebration of St. Patrick's Day has spread worldwide, with various traditions and customs added over time. It's a day to honor Irish history, community, and identity, while also enjoying music, dancing, and the spirit of togetherness. While it has roots in religious observance, today it serves as a fun and lively celebration for people of all backgrounds.

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Here are ten ways to make Lent more meaningful this year:

1. Daily Prayer and Reflection
2. Set aside time each day for prayer or meditation. Reflect on your faith, read scripture, or use devotionals to guide you. Deepening your personal connection to God can help you grow spiritually during Lent.
3. Fasting or Giving Up Something
4. Lent traditionally involves fasting or giving up something as an act of self-discipline. Whether it's food, social media, or a bad habit, this can help you focus more on spiritual growth and less on worldly distractions.
5. Acts of Charity
6. Use Lent as a time to focus on helping others. Volunteer at a local charity, donate items to those in need, or offer support to friends or strangers. Acts of kindness can cultivate a spirit of generosity and compassion.
7. Attending Church Services
8. Make it a priority to attend worship services more regularly during Lent. Participating in the liturgies and hearing scripture can deepen your faith and strengthen your relationship with God.
9. Lenten Journaling
10. Keep a journal to track your reflections, prayers, and insights throughout the season. Writing can help you stay focused on your spiritual goals and understand how you're growing through the journey of Lent.
11. Simplify Your Life
12. Take time to declutter both your physical and mental space. Simplifying your surroundings can help you focus more on what truly matters: your relationship with God and others.
13. Learn About the Passion of Christ
14. Use Lent as an opportunity to study the life and sacrifice of Jesus. Reflecting on His suffering and death can deepen your gratitude and understanding of the sacrifice He made for humanity.
15. Join a Bible Study
16. Consider joining a Bible study. Discussing scripture and spiritual practices with others can offer support, encouragement, and insight on your Lenten journey.
17. Practice Forgiveness
18. Lent is a time to focus on reconciliation. Forgive others who may have wronged you, and seek forgiveness from those you may have hurt. Letting go of grudges can bring peace to your heart and relationships.
19. Focus on Gratitude
20. Each day, reflect on things you're grateful for. Taking time to appreciate the blessings in your life can shift your focus from what you lack to the abundance of God's grace and love in your life.

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What is the best way to invite new people to come to church with you?

Inviting new people to church can be a rewarding experience, but it's important to approach the invitation in a thoughtful and welcoming way. Here are some of the best ways to invite others:

1. Be Personal and Genuine
2. When inviting someone, make the invitation personal and heartfelt. Let them know why you go to church and why it's important to you. Share your experiences and what you've gained from being a part of the church community. A genuine invitation shows that you care about them and their spiritual journey.
3. Extend an Open Invitation
4. Rather than pressuring someone, offer a warm, no-strings-attached invitation. You can say, "I'd love for you to join me at church sometime if you're interested," and let them know that they're welcome anytime. This approach removes any pressure and makes it clear they're free to come when they feel ready.
5. Offer to Meet Them There
6. Sometimes, people feel apprehensive about attending a new church, especially if they don't know anyone. Offer to meet them at the church so they won't feel alone or out of place. This can help ease their nerves and make the experience more comfortable.
7. Invite Them to a Special Event or Service
8. If we are having a special holiday service or Friendship Dinner, use that as an opportunity to invite someone. These events often have a welcoming atmosphere and can be a great introduction to the church.
9. Be Respectful of Their Beliefs
10. While you might feel passionate about your faith, it's important to respect where the other person is coming from. If they seem hesitant or uninterested, let it go gracefully and let them know the invitation stands for whenever they feel ready.
11. Follow Up with Kindness
12. If someone seems open but doesn't come right away, follow up with a friendly message or reminder. Let them know you're thinking of them and that they are still welcome. You can ask how they're doing or offer additional details about the service or church life.
13. Invite Them to a Bible Study
14. If a church service feels intimidating, invite them to a smaller gathering, like a Bible study. Smaller settings can make it easier for someone to meet others and feel a sense of belonging without the overwhelming experience of a larger crowd.
15. Share Resources
16. Some people may be curious about church but want to learn more first. Consider sharing a church website or social media page with them. This allows them to explore at their own pace before they decide to attend.
17. Create a Welcoming Environment
18. When you bring someone to church, make them feel included by introducing them to others, offering to sit with them, and explaining any traditions or customs. The more comfortable and welcomed they feel, the more likely they are to come back.
19. Pray for Them
20. Lastly, pray for the people you're inviting. Ask God to open their hearts to His love and to give them the courage to take the step toward attending church. Sometimes, the most powerful invitation is the one offered in prayer.

Above all, be patient and understanding. People may not be ready to come right away, but your kindness and openness can plant a seed for future interest.

Blessings, Pastor Scott Prouty