



FIRST FACTS



A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · February 2018

LENT BEGINS ON VALENTINE'S DAY!

Sorry Russell Stover, but chocolate might not be the best gift for Valentine's Day this year. You see, it's also Ash Wednesday, the first day of the Lenten season, when many people give up chocolate! Oh, what's a chocolate lover to do?!

On the other hand, Valentine's Day is all about love, and so is Lent. Of course, on Valentine's Day we think about romantic love. It seems to be for couples only. But Lent is all about the **WONDROUS LOVE** of Jesus, shown in his suffering and death for the salvation of the world. In light of his great sacrifice, giving up chocolate seems pretty trivial.



You may have noticed that I use the same charge to close every worship service, based on the two greatest commandments: "Now let us go out into the world to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves." Everything that Jesus did – especially in the last weeks of his life – was for love of God, neighbor, and self. For that reason, we will be focusing ourselves through worship, mission, and education, on this **WONDROUS LOVE**.

In worship, I will be doing a sermon series on **the last words of Jesus from the cross** which are filled with expressions of love for God, others, and himself.

In mission, we will highlight the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering**, which supports hunger programs, self-development of people, and disaster assistance.

AND, for an added BONUS, I will be leading a **Sunday morning study on spiritual practices** (9:30 a.m., beginning February 18, in the PARLOR). The idea behind this is:

- to draw us closer to God, expanding our love for God;
- to increase our spiritual, emotional, and physical health, showing love for ourselves;
- and to give us greater energy and inspiration for serving and loving God's people.

I have nothing against giving up chocolate for Lent. If you can do it, more power to you; I know I don't have enough self-discipline! But I hope you will also consider giving up whatever might get in the way of making time for God. I hope you will love yourself enough to practice self-care. And I hope you will make a commitment to show greater love to family, friends, and strangers.

To begin this season of **WONDROUS LOVE**, please join us for an **Ash Wednesday breakfast and brief worship service, February 14, 8:00 a.m.**

Grace and peace,
Ellen

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session January 16, 2018

1. Session received the Pastor's Report of Activities for 12-20-17 through 1-15-18, and they included four visits/calls, community service at The People's Shelter, one benevolent assistance, 10 meetings, choir rehearsals and one home Communion service.
2. Required annual elections were held, and they included: election of Ruling Elder Nancy Bray as Clerk of Session, election of Ruling Elder Charles Wiles as Treasurer, election of Mike Brown and Joyce Rayfield as Ruling Elders on the Endowment Committee, and election of Sarah Holt and Nancy Bray as Ruling Elders on the Nominating Committee. All of these are one year terms.
3. Approved the 2018 Church Budget as presented by Treasurer Wiles. He reported to date that 37 pledges for a total of \$129,000 have been received and only a few more pledges are expected.
4. Received report from the Endowment Committee, as presented by Treasurer Wiles, that a total of \$ 91,810.02 is available as a transfer from investments for distribution to the 2018 Church Budget. Last year the amount transferred was \$ 30,348.
5. The Session was notified by Presbytery the Per Capita Assessment amount per member in 2018 is \$31.00. These dollars are then divided among the higher councils of the PC (USA) for administrative expenses. With 145 members on our Active Roll, the total our church owes in 2018 will be \$4,495. It was decided, as in the past, an appeal will be made to all members to pay their own Per Capita expense and even pay for someone else's if possible.
6. Approved a mission donation of \$ 1,000 to the Community Counseling Center in support of mental health services for children and adolescents and a \$ 500 donation to St. James A.M.E. Church in support of The People's Shelter for homeless community members during the recent extremely cold weather.
7. Elder Dave Bengtson, Property Committee Chair, reported on several projects in the works, and they included repairing/improving the wooden Narthex door for aesthetic and security purposes; replacing more church lighting with L.E.D. bulbs for significant cost savings; changing restroom lights/fans to motion-activated switches; and pricing possible heating and cooling changes in parts of the church to improve efficiency of operation (thus cost savings) and comfort, especially in the office area.



The next meeting of the Book Club will be at 7:00 p.m. **Tuesday**, February 13, 2018 at the home of Sharon Metcalfe. Please note the date change since our normal day would fall on Ash Wednesday. The February book is "The Orphan Mother" by Robert Hicks. The March meeting will be on Wednesday, March 15th at the home of Jean Cairns. The March book is "A Spool of Blue Thread" by Anne Tyler. All are welcome and the reading of the book is optional.



Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 11:00 A.M. in the Chateau Dining Room. If you would like to attend, please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651 - 5274 or Ruth Needle at 334 - 4515 so that arrangements can be made for a table to accommodate all of us. We will order off the menu with each person being responsible for their own lunch. All are welcome.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FAMILY ACTIVITY

The Christian Education Committee has planned an activity for our children and parents for SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11th. The children will help pass out special valentines for everyone attending worship. After church the families will meet on the third floor to enjoy a "valentine" lunch together. There will be some valentine activities after lunch and at 1:00 everyone will go together to The Discovery Playhouse on Broadway. There will be NO COST to our families and these activities welcome all ages, even our special little infant. It is important that parents notify either Melissa Harris (579-4977) or Kathy Brown (334-8797) by WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH if they plan to attend because we are able to get a group discount at Discovery Playhouse.



Church Safety and Security Training

On Saturday, February 24, at First Baptist Church in Cape, a training course will be offered on Church Safety and Security by Sergeant Clark Parrott of the MO State Highway Patrol. It will begin at 10 a.m. and last about 90 minutes or less. Members of our church are invited to attend, and several Elders plan to do so. If you are interested, please call our church office (335-2579) by February 16. Churches today are facing the challenge of protecting people and property without sacrificing hospitality. Our Session at First Presbyterian is committed to providing a welcoming church but also the safest possible place in which to work and worship. This workshop was originally scheduled for January 13, but ice and snow led to postponing it until February 24.



Our Christmas Project for the

Farmington Children's Home was very successful again this year. Besides our wonderful donations from church members we were able to add extra money from our Church Mission Budget to help meet their requests. We were able to purchase a large metal picnic table for the courtyard area used by the lockdown facilities. We also purchased a snow cone machine and a cotton candy machine for them to use for the children's parties. Our budget included money to buy the materials needed to make and serve the snow cones and cotton candy. They were very pleased to no longer have to pay to rent these machines on party days. Our generous donation budget also allowed us to donate \$2000.00 in Walmart gift cards for them to have to use for immediate children's needs. THANKS to everyone who supported our project and who helped to make the lives of the children in Farmington a little brighter.

HELP PAY YOUR PER CAPITA

In addition to your pledge to the church, we encourage you to pay assessment. Each year the higher councils of the church divide their administrative expenses among the members of the congregations. This is called a per capita assessment. Each member chips in a small amount that adds up to enough to support the work of the larger church. For 2018 our per capita is \$31.00 per member.



February Meal-a-Month

2 Cans of Chicken Noodle Soup
2 Cans of Apple Sauce
Box of Crackers



SOUPE BOWL SUNDAY! Please plan to support our local food pantry, FISH, by donating dollars or canned goods to Souper Bowl Sunday, February 4, 2018. We will pass soup pots at church that day. If you cannot attend that day, please send a donation to our church office or bring your canned goods by the church. Please make checks out to FISH, and mark in memo area, 'Souper Bowl Sunday.' One hundred percent of your donations go to our local FISH food pantry. Last year we raised \$1,480 and collected 237 cans. Thank you for your help supporting those in need in our community.

No Gather, Share and Eat in February



The Fellowship/Kitchen Team is cancelling the February Gather, Share & Eat and instead encouraging everyone to attend Rev. Gurnon's Installation Service on Sunday, February 11, at 4:00 p.m. There will be a reception with refreshments following the installation so we hope many members will attend that to support our new pastor and help welcome her family, friends and Presbytery visitors who will be attending that day.



Dylan Corvick from Boy Scout Troop 4 will be receiving his Eagle Award on February 4, noon in the Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. There will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the ceremony. Members of the church are all invited.



Light Bulbs

The Property Committee is replacing many light bulbs at the church with LED lights as a great cost savings. If you are interested in having some of the old bulbs, call the church office for more information.

Friends of Troop 4 is having a Trivia Night at the Activity Building. If you would like to sign up to participate, email Sharon Wessel at sharonwessel65@gmail.com or call Shirley 382-0495. Proceeds will go toward building expenses.

Letters of Thanks

Dear Members of Session,

The Stewardship Committee of our Presbytery thanks the Session and Congregation of First Presbyterian Church for fulfilling your pledge to General Mission of PCUSA totaling \$359.85. This gift contributes to the Continuation of vital ministries through schools, hospitals, communities and congregations all around the world. The participation of many congregations deepens the impact of our mission to others. May you know God's blessing as you continue your ministry in Cape Girardeau.

In Christ

Joan M. Marshall

Presbytery Stewardship Team

Dear Friends,

We are deeply grateful for the wonderful gifts that were gathered for the children we serve at the Farmington Treatment Center. The gifts cards, the cotton candy and snow cone machines...everyone was thrilled!! We appreciate the efforts that you all put into making this Christmas season extra meaningful for them.

Thank you so much for keeping our hurting children in your hearts and helping them to appreciate the blessings of childhood. These acts of generosity that you share are tremendously essential to their healing and emotional development. We are touched by your continued kindness.

Blessings, Debra Paulus

Senior Development Officer

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services

Dear Ellen,

We are so honored that you have chosen Community Counseling Center Foundation as a recipient of your gift of **\$1,000 for our Super Heroes Have a Heart for Children Fundraiser**.

Your compassion means a great deal to those who benefit from the programs and services that your gifts help support.

It is through such generosity that Community Counseling Center can achieve our goal of providing comprehensive behavioral health and prevention services to every person in need in our five -county region.

On behalf of Community Counseling Center and those that we serve-we thank you for this kind and generous act of caring.

With Appreciation,

Mary E. Burton, CFRE

Executive Director



The Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy

Invites you to

Share in the Worship of God

And the Installation by the Presbytery of

The Reverend Ellen Gurnon

As Pastor of

First Presbyterian Church

On

Sunday, February 11, 2018

4:00pm

At First Presbyterian Church

235 Broadway

Cape Girardeau, Mo 63701

A reception for Rev. Gurnon

Will be held at the church

Immediately following the service.

FEBRUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

The Session hopes you will use this 'Prayer Calendar' as we daily pray for each other and some of the mission concerns of our church.

- 1ST Jacob Harrison (birthday)
- 2ND Synod of Southern California and Hawaii
- 3RD Abingdon Presbytery
- 4TH Brucee Woods (birthday)
- 5TH Presbytery of the Pacific
- 6TH Presbytery of Riverside
- 7TH David Brown, Paul Pautler (birthday)
- 8TH Presbytery of San Gabriel
- 9TH Presbytery of San Fernando
- 10TH Jeanne Hirsch (birthday)
- 11TH Presbytery of Santa Barbara
- 12TH Elsie Jane Harris (birthday)
- 13TH Latin America and the Caribbean
- 14TH Jim Hirsch (birthday)
Bob & Ann Parkinson, Ray & Sandy Wilhelm (anniversary)
- 15TH Argentina/Paraguay/Uruguay
- 16TH Brasil
- 17TH Presbytery of Los Ranchos
- 18TH Chile
- 19TH Benjamin Broeckling (birthday)
- 20TH Sam McCune (birthday)
- 21ST Peru
- 22ND Bolivia
- 23RD Colombia
- 24TH Venezuela
- 25TH Caribbean Islands
- 26TH Presbytery of San Diego
- 27TH Dominican Republic
- 28TH Haiti
- 29th Presbytery of Arkansas

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

Lord, you know everything; you know that we love you! Help us to take care of your sheep. Help us to follow you to new places. Give us love for the lost and lonely. In Jesus' name, Amen.

February 2018

Monthly Planner

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Jan 2018</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Mar 2018</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> </div> </div> | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | <p>1</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> |
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| <p>4</p> <p>10:00 am Coffee in Atrium</p> <p>10:30 am Communion Worship Service</p> <p>noon Eagle Scout Court of Honor</p> <p>Souper Bowl Sunday</p> | <p>5</p> <p>6:30 pm Property Meeting</p> <p>Office Closed</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p> | <p>9</p> | <p>10</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>11</p> <p>10:00 am Coffee in Atrium</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>4:00 pm Rev. Ellen Gumon Installation</p> <p>noon Christian Education Activity</p> | <p>12</p> <p>Office Closed</p> | <p>13</p> <p>11:00 am 2nd Tuesday at Chateau</p> <p>7:00 pm Book Club</p> | <p>14</p> <p>2:00 pm Executive Meeting</p> <p>8:00 am Breakfast & Worship Service</p> | <p>15</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>18</p> <p>10:00 am Coffee in Atrium</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>9:30 am Adult Sunday School</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Office Closed</p> | <p>20</p> <p>6:30 pm Session Meeting</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Practice</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> <p>10AM Safety & Security Training</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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