



The Echo

First Presbyterian Church
601 6th Avenue, Sibley, IA 51249
Terry P. Simm, Pastor

THE COVENANT ORDER OF EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIANS (ECO)

Office Telephone: (712) 754-3126
Office Email: denise@sibleypresby.church

Office Fax: (712) 754-2479
Website: sibleypresby.church



February



'20



Echo information is subject to change.
All pictures and filler articles, if any, are taken from NewsletterNewsletter.com

From the Pastor

As I write this newsletter the new year has begun. Even though, typically, winter is just beginning, it seems like it has been here for several months already. Looking ahead, the forecast for the next several days is cold, but no large amounts of snow. The world around us seems to be in turmoil in the Middle East. Iraq wants US troops out of their nation for the killing of Iran's top general. We are in the middle of an impeachment trial; tension between Democrats and Republicans is at an all-time high. It would appear that based on what is happening around us we all should be in a gloom and doom state, which the January-February months often are. However, into this time of uncertainty comes the Christian season of Lent, calling us to remember once again that into this broken world God sent his Son, Jesus Christ.

Lent is typically a time for reflection. But it is also a way for us to focus on God, rather than the world in which we live. Two disciplines of Lent are prayer and fasting, and both are ways for us to change the patterns of our everyday life and get ourselves out of a dark state of affairs. Ash Wednesday is the start of the Lenten season and it begins on February 26 this year. For our time of Lent, I will be doing a series this year titled *By His Wounds We Are Healed* by Rev. Michael Hoy. Our Lord and Savior suffered mortal wounds as punishment for the commandments broken by us. Yet, those very wounds are the means by which our sins are forgiven and we are made whole again. This series leads us to reflect on how the wounds of sin affect relationships with God and with others, and how, through graceful healing, our Lord restores us once more.

I am excited about the Sesquicentennial Celebration coming up the first of June. The skits during Advent were a great way to get us in the right mood for the celebration. It appears a number of former pastors are going to try and make it back for the weekend and for those who can't, we will offer them to come any Sunday before, if possible.

I would like to close with these words from Rick Warren on living authentic lives: "One way to live authentically is to read your Bible regularly. Psalm 119: 9 says, 'How can a young person live a pure life? By obeying your word (NCV).' You can't obey God's Word if you don't know it. If you don't spend time reading and studying and memorizing the Bible, you won't have the strength and stamina to be real and honest with the people around you. God created you to be you. Trust him and be authentic."



God bless,
Pastor Terry



February 14



FEBRUARY 17



Sponsored by Fellowship of the Carpenter

Wednesday, February 19 5-7 P.M.

Sibley First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

Soups Chili

Broccoli & Cheese Chicken 'n Noodle Chicken 'n Wild Rice Vegetable Beef

Variety of Pies/Desserts Ham & Cheese Sandwiches

Call 754-2479 for Carry-Outs Freewill offering.

(No Logos on February 19, so teachers can help with the Soup & Pie Supper.)



Ladies, FOC would again this year gratefully ask you to supply the pies and desserts, delivering them to the church kitchen by 12 noon on February 19. A SOUPER THANK YOU TO ALL!

FISHES & LOAVES

Saturday, February 15 @ 6 P.M.

Games @ 5 P.M.

Spaghetti/Garlic Bread/Salads/Cake

No Charge or Freewill Offering. All are Invited!



CIRCLE MEETINGS

Dorcas Circle meets Tuesday, February 18, at 6:30 p.m., in the meeting room. Lillian Shoemaker is the hostess.

Sarah Circle meets Thursday, February 20, at 9:00 a.m., at Heartwood Heights, unless otherwise announced.

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

The Property & Financial Stewardship Committee meets Tuesday, February 11, at 6:00 p.m., to take care of work projects, followed by the business meeting at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room.

The Mission & Nurture Committee meets Wednesday, February 5, at 5:30 p.m., in the choir room.

The Worship & Evangelism Committee meets Sunday, February 2, at 11:00 a.m., in the choir room.

The Christian Education Committee meets Thursday, February 6, at 6:30 p.m., in the meeting room.

The Deacons meet Thursday, February 20, at 6:30 p.m., in the meeting room.

Session meets Thursday, February 20, at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room.

Wednesday Prayer Group...meets every Wednesday from 7 - 8:30 a.m., in the meeting room. Come when you can. Leave when you need to.

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study meets at 10 a.m., in the downstairs' FOC room, with new study through March 4. After that, on hiatus until the fall. Study...The Gospel of Mark: The Jesus We're Aching For.

Men's Monday Night Bible Study meets at 7 p.m., in the church meeting room.

Adult Old Testament Bible Study meets Wednesday mornings at 8:45 a.m., in the meeting room.



125th Anniversary Celebration

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Notify your family and friends to join us in celebration! We hope to see you there!

Saturday, June 6...Special program at 7 p.m., followed by ice cream sundaes.

Sunday, June 7...Catered meal after the service.

BINGO

First Presbyterian is scheduled to help with Bingo at Country View Manor in February. Bingo is played every Friday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. Sign-up is underway. 4 people needed each week.



The ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE is being held in the church fellowship hall on February 26, at 7:00 p.m. Communion by Intinction will be celebrated with elders Dale Eads, Connie Wagner, Bill Pearson, and Dean Popkes assisting Pastor Terry. Deacons responsible for the elements are Jackie Kannegieter (juice) and Winnie Krogman (bread). The offering will be received for the church General Fund.



Lenten Prayer Breakfast

Breakfasts begin at 6:30 a.m., on Ash Wednesday, February 26. Schedule not available as of this printing. Please watch the Sunday bulletins for details.

SESSION MEETING November 21, 2019

SESSION VOTED TO APPROVE:

Heying Endeavors' financial report of the church main accounts, month ending October 31, 2019.

General Fund

Table with financial data: Balance as of Sept. 30 \$ 1,694.37, Receipts for Oct. +\$15,881.00, Interest +\$ 1.40, Expend. for Oct. -\$23,706.29, Ending balance Oct. 31 \$ (6,129.52)

Moderator's Report...a. No recommendations for approval.

Clerk's Report...a. No recommendations for approval.

Property & Financial Stewardship...a. To recommend to the congregation at the January annual meeting approval of the 2020 Proposed General Fund Budget as a best estimate working budget as we do not have a pledge system in place. b. Bob Alexander, Jim Heronimus, Paul Reiter, and Ralph Witham to each serve a one-year member-at-large term on Committee, Class of 2020. c. To take to the congregation the remodeling of the old basement.

Worship & Evangelism...a. To approve, as a whole, the 2019 Advent & Christmas schedule of events.

Christian Education...a. DiDi Edwards and Emily Zylstra to serve as members-at-large on Committee, Class of 2020. b. Ralph Witham as mentor for 8th grade confirmand, Koby Bosma.

Mission & Nurture...a. To elect Helene Handeland as treasurer for the Summer Meal Fund. b. To

hold Mission Fest 2020 on October 25, with Heather Kebede, missionary in Ethiopia, with Antioch Partners, as our guest speaker, and with FOC serving a pork loin dinner after the service as a freewill offering fundraiser. c. Sunday, January 26, as the date to recognize our partners who hold 50 continuous years of church membership. d. Helene Handeland, Marie Wallace, and Randy Goldhorn to serve as members-at-large on Committee, Class of 2020.

Personnel Committee...a. To approve all recommendations concerning renewal of Pastor Maggie's contract for another year, moving her to part-time status at 20-29 flex hours per week, Pastor Terry and Denise's medical coverage, and cost of living salary increases for all staff, with 2020 Proposed Budget incorporation.

Old Business...a. To appoint Gina Wietzema and Bob Alexander to the 2019 Audit Committee to review all financial reports prior to the January annual meeting.

New Business...a. To protect the pastor/s and the church from possible legal liabilities, to implement counseling policy and counseling agreement documents, with implementation effective immediately. b. To approve Circles' 2020 study book, *John's Letters*, by Ron Blankley.

SESSION MEETING December 19, 2019

SESSION VOTED TO APPROVE:

Heying Endeavors' financial report of the church main accounts, month ending November 30, 2019.

General Fund

Balance as of Oct. 31		\$ (6,129.52)
Receipts for Nov.	+\$22,683.38	
Interest	+\$ 1.12	
Expend. for Nov.	-\$19,799.01	
	\$ 2,885.49	
Ending balance Nov. 30, 2019		\$ (3,244.03)

Moderator's Report...No recommendations.

Clerk's Report...a. Request from Jesse & Brittany Snyder, Sheldon, IA, for transfer of their church partnership to the fellowship of First Reformed Church, Sheldon.

Property & Financial Stewardship...a. To elect 2020 treasurers, Dale Eads (Helping Hand Fund), Shan Alexander (Memorial Fund), and Ginger French, for Heying Endeavors, (General/Mission and Property Needs Fund).

Worship & Evangelism...a. To approve the 2020 Communion Schedule, with 4 dates to serve our shut-in, nursing home and assisted living partners and friends. b. Travis Ten Napel to serve a 1-year at-large term, Class of 2020, and Denise Kuiper and Darla Linqvist to each serve a 3-year at-large term, Class of 2022, on Committee. c. Ben Jacobsma to conduct a training session on the church organ for any piano or organ players, who may be interested, date at his discretion.

Christian Education...a. Cindy Gries to serve a one-year at-large term on Committee, Class of 2020. b. Karey Julius and Cary Rueter as 7th & 8th grade Sunday school teachers. c. For 2020 calendar purposes, to hold Campers' Recognition on May 10, Graduates' Recognition on May 17, and VBS Staff Recognition on May 31. d. To tentatively set 2021 VBS dates, Sunday, May 23 through Thursday, May 27.

Mission & Nurture...a. To participate in the Kids Against Hunger packaging event at the Sioux Falls' site on Saturday, March 14, 2020. b. Sue Schutte and Brenda Michelson to serve as members-at-large, Class of 2022, on Committee.

Personnel Committee...To approve, as reviewed, Pastor Terry's Declaration to the IRS (distribution of 2020 Pastoral Ministry budget).

Old Business...a. To receive the 2019 Nominating Committee's report of nominees to be presented to the congregation at the January annual meeting.

New Business...a. To hold Ordination & Installation Service on Sunday, March 1. b. To hold required annual Session Retreat, which serves as orientation for newly elected officers, on Saturday, March 21, from 9 a.m., to 3 p.m., at the church.

c. Marilyn Poppen to represent the PW on the 2020 Nominating Committee.



CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS & MEMORIES February/March '20

All entries are taken from our 1895-1995 Centennial Celebration binder.

In World News February 1970...None recorded.

In World News March 1970...None recorded.

In Church News...None recorded.



Sara Bartholomew	2/01
Addison Douma	2/02
Austin Kruger	2/02
Duane Vande Garde	2/02
Phyllis Huisinga	2/03
Mary Wagenaar	2/03
Samantha Clark	2/04
Scott Gries	2/04
Thomas Roth	2/04
Jennifer Willemssen	2/05
Brent Reed	2/07
Ashilyn Hulstein	2/07
Karla Bevers	2/08
Sharon Powers	2/10
Timothy Jenson	2/10
Jennifer Vipond	2/10
Connie Wagner	2/10
Jericho Leathers	2/11
Jenna Braaksma	2/12
Maverick Doeden	2/12
Casey VanEngen	2/13
Brenda Michelson	2/14
Heather Kebede	2/15
Josh Jurens	2/15
Sue Krogman	2/15
Dawn Simm	2/15
Haliegh Van Westen	2/16
Joey Klaassen	2/17
Alex Kruger	2/17
Juliana Leathers	2/17
Dennis Veenker	2/17
Emmett Jurgens	2/18
Jed Vander Pol	2/19
Jan Eads	2/20
Brent Schiphoff	2/20
Charley Zylstra	2/20
Brooke Korthals	2/21
Zach Butler	2/22
Tyson Julius	2/22
Jorryn Julius	2/23
Anthony Renner	2/23
Shari Van Engen	2/24
Michele Klaassen	2/25
Ashley Spillman	2/25
Twilla Bents	2/26
Tom Ackerman	2/27

H
a
p
p
y

B
i
r
t
h
d
a
y

t
o

Y
o
u



Steve & Jackie Kannegieter 2/03/2007
 Bob & Jeanette Greve Thompson 2/09/2007
 Bob & Joyce Roede 2/10/1967
 Chad & Connie Jansma 2/14/2009



- CANDLE LIGHTERS**
- Feb. 02 Kyliegh Wollmuth & Cienna Van Houten
 - Feb. 09 Carter Vos & Brenden Witham
 - Feb. 16 Phillip Van Westen & Gavin Stanton
 - Feb. 23 Ethan Hepburn & Ben Byers



USHERS

Craig Van Houten
 Dave Jenson
 Paul Reiter

GREETERS

Tom & Gina Wietzema
 Gloria Wills
 Curt & Rochelle Van Tilburg

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Travis Ten Napel

LAY INVOLVEMENT

- Feb. 02 Dean Popkes
- Feb. 09 Grace Bevers (8th confirmand)
 Tracy Van Diepen (Children's Message)
- Feb. 16 Koby Bosma (8th confirmand)
- Feb. 23 Noah Doeden (8th confirmand)

NURSERY

- Feb. 02 Heather Kleinwolterink, Mackenzie Schiphoff
 Hannah Ingvall
- Feb. 09 Janelle Jensen, Evan Heinrichs, Morgan Huls
- Feb. 16 Sara Dirks, Chase Wasmund, Janna Dreesen
- Feb. 23 Emily Zylstra, Cora Rueter, Brady Julius

COFFEE SERVERS

- Feb. 02 Deacons
- Feb. 09 Presbyterian Relay for Life Team
- Feb. 16 Deacons
- Feb. 23 Deacons



KIDS AGAINST HUNGER PACKAGING EVENT @ SIOUX FALLS ON MARCH 14, THE 10-11:30 A.M. SHIFT. 40 PEOPLE NEEDED. SIGN UP BEGINS FEBRUARY 16.

PARTNERSHIP INQUIRY CLASSES... If anyone is looking for a church home, inquiry classes will be held the weeks of March 2 and 9. If interested, please contact Pastor Terry to set up an appointment. Class time will be 1½ hours. Prospective new partners will meet with the Session at its March 19 meeting for consideration for church partnership, with public reception on tentative Sunday, March 22, with the Mission & Nurture Committee hosting.

SESSION RETREAT... The required **ANNUAL SESSION RETREAT**, for all 2020, 2021 and 2022 elders, is Saturday, March 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church. A noon lunch will be provided. Retreat serves as orientation for newly elected elders. Please do your best to attend. If not able, please contact Pastor Terry. Lunch provided.

PW GATHERING

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 2:00 P.M.
 Executive Meeting 1:30 P.M.
 Program: Adopt Budget & Report on Visitations.

At the February circle meetings, each circle will receive a list of shut-ins to visit. Circle members may wish to visit in pairs, or with husbands. It is suggested that you have a devotion and prayer at the visitation. Please have this done prior to the PW gathering on March 4. Hostesses & Devotion Leaders: Janet Christians, Chr., and Jan Eads.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

- Dorcas Circle** meets Tuesday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m., in the meeting room. Gloria Wills is the hostess.
- Sarah Circle** meets Thursday, March 19, at 9:00 a.m., at Heartwood Heights.



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP BEGINS WITH THE MARCH MEETINGS!

The **Property & Financial Stewardship Committee** meets Tuesday, March 10, at 6:00 p.m., to take care of work projects, followed by the business meeting at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room.

The **Mission & Nurture Committee** meets Wednesday, March 4, at 5:30 p.m., in the choir room.

The **Worship & Evangelism Committee** meets Sunday, March 1, at 11:00 a.m., in the choir room.

The **Christian Education Committee** meets Thursday, March 5, at 6:30 p.m., in the meeting room.

The **Deacons** meet Thursday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m., in the meeting room. **NEW DEACONS' MEMBERSHIP BEGINS!**



The **ORDINATION & INSTALLATION SERVICE** for our newly elected officers is **Sunday, March 1**. We ask that our past and current elders and deacons be present as a show of support to those who will be undertaking the responsibilities of their respective offices. All new officers take office with the March meetings.

The host country for WDP 2020 is Zimbabwe. The WDP 2020 program theme is "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk." **World Day of Prayer is Friday, March 6, at 2 p.m. Men and women are invited! Please watch the Sunday bulletins for host church.**



Be Fed!

The **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT** is March 1. The **LORD'S SUPPER** will be celebrated with elders Brian Kemp, Dean Popkes, Dale Eads, Craig Van Houten, Esther Ernst, and Dennis Poppen serving the congregation and our shut-in, nursing home and assisted living members and friends. Deacons responsible for preparation of the elements are Pam Juber (juice) and Les Powers (bread).

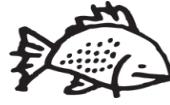
Session meets Thursday, March 19, at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room, with prospective new partners present at 7:30. **NEW SESSION MEMBERSHIP BEGINS!**

Wednesday Prayer Group...meets every Wednesday from 7 – 8:30 a.m., in the meeting room. Come when you can. Leave when you need to.

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study meets at 10 a.m., in the downstairs' FOC room, March 4, to finish their study. This is the last session. Bible study will begin again in the fall.

Men's Monday Night Bible Study meets at 7 p.m., in the church meeting room.

Adult Old Testament Bible Study meets Wednesday mornings at 8:45 a.m., in the church meeting room.



& LOAVES

Sibley First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall Saturday, March 21, at 6 P.M. Games @ 5. Menu: Soups/Breads/Pies. No charge or freewill offering.



REGISTRATION

for both Lakeshore Center @ Okoboji and Inspiration Hills, Inwood, begins Sunday, March 8. Guest speakers will give a Minute for Mission on March 8 (Lakeshore) and March 15 (Inspiration Hills), and will meet with grades 1-6 during the SS hour. The church will again pay $\frac{1}{2}$ of camp costs, one camp per child, with the parents responsible for the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ share. The Scrip program will reimburse the parents $\frac{1}{2}$ of their $\frac{1}{2}$ share of

camp costs on Campership Sunday, May 10. The church will not pay for children not of this congregation. The deadline to register your kids for camp is 12:00 noon, April 8. **Pastor Maggie is the go-to person again this year for camp registration!**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE POLICY

...If parents do not register their children by the end of the workday (4 p.m.) on April 8, the parents will be responsible for sending the full amount of camp costs/registration forms to Lakeshore Center or Inspiration Hills and then informing the church office of the child's name, camp title and cost. The church will then reimburse the parents for their $\frac{1}{2}$ share. **ALL CHECKS ARE TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO LAKESHORE CENTER OR INSPIRATION HILLS!**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

: If any of our families are struggling financially and it is not feasible to send your children to camp, please let the church office know. Both the camps and First Presbyterian have scholarships available to assist with camp costs. **PLEASE NOTE, THOUGH, THIS CANNOT BE DONE LAST MINUTE. FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, YOU MUST NOTIFY THE OFFICE BY APRIL 6 SO THERE IS TIME TO PROCESS YOUR REQUEST BEFORE THE APRIL 8 DEADLINE. A COMPLETED SCHOLARSHIP FORM IS REQUIRED!**



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Phyllis Johns	3/01
Jeanette Thompson	3/02
Janet Huls	3/02
Janelle Jensen	3/03
Cidny Rockman	3/03
Afton Grady	3/04
Terry Simm	3/04
Andrea Kemp	3/05
Kris Vipond	3/05
Dean Popkes	3/06
Dan Huls	3/07
Megan Helmers	3/07
Mark Jenson	3/07
Brad Jensen	3/08
Evan Heinrichs	3/08
Nikki Van Westen	3/08
Gracyn Leaper	3/09
Cody Marco	3/09
Katy Marco	3/09
Shirlene Grote	3/10
Colleen Harms	3/11
Cari Bosma	3/12
Kinsey Bosma	3/12
Malia Voss	3/12
Annie Zylstra	3/12
Amos Kleinwolterink	3/13
Amanda Alford	3/13
Winnie Krogman	3/14
Morgan Huls	3/14
Seth Stevens	3/14
Casey Reiter	3/15
Cristy Vos	3/15
Brenda Darnell	3/16
Nicholas Petersen	3/16

Heidi Douma	3/17
Andrew Marco	3/17
Marshall Doeden	3/18
Jaylen Vos	3/18
Dianne Gruis	3/19
Jean Mesner	3/19
Cody VanEngen	3/20
Knox Top	3/20
Tayla Hinrichs	3/21
LeAnn Renner	3/22
Zackery Trierweiler	3/22
Ruth Krull	3/23
Kyler Linquist	3/23
Allen Reck	3/27
Peter Wagner	3/27
Ashley Linquist	3/27
Amanda TenNapel	3/29
Gary Abels	3/30
Dorothy Groote	3/30
Betty Nicks	3/31
Roger Poppen	3/31
Marshall Schiphoff	3/31
Gayl Tutje	3/31
Ralph Witham	3/31



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Kelly & Kaitlyn Top	3/02/2013
Tom & Denise Kuiper	3/05/2008
Carroll & Ramona Dass	3/13/1949
Clint & Kindra Reiter	3/17/2001
Matt & Ashley Linquist	3/17/2018
James & Ashley Spillman	3/20/2015
Bob & Shan Alexander	3/30/1979
Doug & Lynelle Thiner	3/30/1985

SCHEDULES

Ushers

John Linquist/Tom Wietzema
Randy Goldhorn/Mike Milbrath

Greeters

Scott & Karey Julius
Les & Sharon Powers
Bob & Marie Godfredsen

Deacon of the Month

Randy Goldhorn

Lay Involvement

Mar. 01	Tom Kuiper
Mar. 08	Janna Dreessen (8th confirmand) Karey Julius (Children's Message)
Mar. 15	Bailey Gries (8th confirmand)
Mar. 22	Marilyn Poppen
Mar. 29	Brady Julius (8th confirmand) Tracy Van Diepen (Children's Message)

Nursery

Mar. 01	Rick Dirks, Brady Klaassen & Sarah Jansma
Mar. 08	Jennifer Kruger, Chloe Sheda & Morgan Huls
Mar. 15	Jodi Marco, Allyson Meinders & Hannah Huls
Mar. 22	Beth Zystra, Timothy Jenson & Logan Huls
Mar. 29	Jessica Williams, Koby Bosma & Ellie Huls

Candle Lighters

Mar. 01	Riley Dirks & TJ Wietzema
Mar. 08	Grant Schiphoff & Alex Kruger
Mar. 15	Hunter Kauffman & Gage Greenfield
Mar. 22	Mariah Dake & Riley Childs
Mar. 29	Gabe Bevers & Huxton Wallace

Coffee Servers

Mar. 01	Christian Education
---------	---------------------

- Mar. 08 Presbyterian Relay for Life
- Mar. 15 Christian Education
- Mar. 22 Tentative Mission & Nurture
(New Partners' Public Reception)
- Mar. 29 Christian Education



ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Nov. 17	167	General	\$4,668.00
Nov. 24	162	Mission	\$3,288.25
		Property	\$1,252.25
		General	\$1,001.95
Dec. 01	122	General	\$2,230.00
Dec. 08	167	General	\$6,746.00
Dec. 15	146	General	\$4,448.00
Dec. 22	189	General	\$8,482.00
Dec. 29	127	Mission	\$2,571.00
		Property	\$1,539.00
		General	\$2,815.00
Jan. 05	158	General	\$4,050.00
Jan. 12	154	General	\$3,679.00

ADDRESS CHANGE

Sheila Soderquist

Heartwood Heights, 409 9th Ave. N #108
Sibley, IA 51249

Deadlines

APRIL/MAY '20
ECHO...8:00 a.m., March 10.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS...The deadline for all announcements wished to be included in the Sunday bulletin is Thursday at 4:00 p.m. **BULLETIN PICK-UP**...To ensure the doors are not locked on Fridays, for those who pick up a bulletin early, please come before 1 p.m., but no earlier than 11:00 a.m. **CHURCH OPEN**...Public office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, including the noon hour. On occasion, the church doors may be locked before 4 p.m., on Friday, if Pastor Terry has visitations and/or Denise leaves early to use up some of her vacation time. Most often the church is open from 9 to noon on Saturdays if Pastor Terry is in the office. **The church is closed on Mondays** even though the employees may be working that day.



Baptism

Congratulations to Matt & Ashley Linquist on the wonderful day of their son's baptism. Kyler Brian Linquist was baptized on December 8.

Congratulations on Your New Baby!



With joy, we announce the birth of William Curtis Top, who was born on Jan. 2, weighing in at 8 pounds 13 ounces and 20 inches long. Proud parents are Kelly & Kaitlyn Top, and proud grandparents are Curt & Rochelle Van Tilburg and Judy Top.



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families of Ronald Reiter, 75, of LeMars, especially to the members of our church family, his brother and sister-in-law, Paul & Carmen Reiter, his sister, Ruby Janssen, and his sister-in-law, Carol Reiter, and their families, upon his death

on Nov. 17. His funeral service was held at the Lyon County First Presbyterian Church, George, on Nov. 21.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the families of Lorry Massa, 65, especially his wife, Paulette (Brandt) Massa, their family, and his siblings, upon his death on Nov. 22. His memorial service was held on Dec. 3, at the Incarnation Lutheran Church, Shoreview, MN.

We give our Christian sympathy to Ruth Krull and family upon the death of her brother, Lyle Funk, of California, who passed away on Dec. 2.

We give our deepest condolences to the families of Dorothy Groote, 93, who passed away at the Good Samaritan Society, George, IA, on Dec. 8. Her funeral service was held at our church on Dec. 11.

Dorothy Groote was born on March 30, 1926, in Melvin, IA, the daughter of Arthur and Winnie (Rosenboom) Backer. She grew up in Melvin and graduated in 1944. On August 25, 1944, Dorothy was united in marriage to Frederick Groote in Sibley, IA. To this union three children were born, Bernard, Robert and Marilyn. Dorothy was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Sibley. She enjoyed crocheting, quilting, cross stitching and handy crafts. She will be greatly missed. Dorothy is survived by her three children: Bernie (Maxine) Groote of George, IA, Bob (Pam) Groote of Sibley, IA and Marilyn Marnach of Sioux Falls, SD; eight grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and other extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur and Winnie Backer; stepmother, Ida Backer; husband, Frederick Groote; sister, Ruth Loerts of Sibley, IA; brother, Ervin Backer; infant brother, Donald; stepsister, LaVonne Balt; two stepbrothers, Delbert and Calvin Kadous.

Our Christian support and sympathy are given to the families of Sylvia Gruis, 98, especially to the members of our church family, her son and daughter-in-law, Lloyd & Dianne Gruis, and her niece, Audrey Veenker (husband Dennis), and their families, upon her death on Dec. 12, at Sibley Specialty Care. Her funeral service was held on Dec. 16, at the Salem Reformed Church, Little Rock.

We give our Christian sympathy and prayers of support to Les & Sharon Powers, upon the death of Les' sister, Nancy Johnson, 68, who passed away at the Iowa Methodist Hospital, Des Moines, on Jan. 1, from a brain bleed. Her funeral service was held at Rush Family Chapel, Onawa, IA, on Jan. 7.

Our heartfelt condolences are given to the families of Art Kruse, especially to the members of our church family, his wife, Mary, and sister-in-law, Ruth Zylstra, and their families, upon his death at Country View Manor on Jan. 9. His funeral service was held at our church on Jan. 18.

Arthur Glenn Kruse was born December 20, 1925, to Dick J. and Marie (Mayland) Kruse on a farm near Adrian, MN. He was raised on the farm near Adrian, and attended school in Little Rock, IA. Later, his family moved to farmland near Bigelow, MN. He graduated from

Bigelow High School at the age of sixteen. Art served in the United States Army for eighteen months, serving in Japan at the close of World War 2. On November 25, 1950, he was united in marriage to Mary Willts at the First Presbyterian Church in Sibley, IA. To this union three children were born. He and Mary raised their family on the family farm near Bigelow, MN. Art and Mary moved to Sibley in 1996. Art was a proud farmer, but also had a side job as an electrician and telephone lineman. He was a very involved member of the First Presbyterian Church in Sibley. In the past, he served as an Elder, Deacon, Trustee, and Sunday School Superintendent. He was a member of the Bigelow American Legion and a past president of the Bigelow Elevator Board. Art played baseball for many years and really enjoyed watching football. He was a "Jack of all trades," doing carpentry, woodworking, and anything electrical. Out of all his hobbies he loved farming the most, with his John Deere equipment. He would tell stories about farming with horses. Mary remembers the many Sunday drives to go look to see who had dirty beanfields. He loved food and did not have very many dislikes when it came to food. His family will remember him for being an honest and faithful man. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 69 years, Mary; 3 children, Brian (Susan) Kruse of Midland, MI, Glenn (Cathi) Kruse of Atlanta, GA, and Jeanne (Steve) Roudabush of Eden Prairie, MN; 7 grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren; brother, Alvin Kruse; along with extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dick and Marie; infant brother, Albert; and brother Arnold Kruse.

Thanks!

Dear Congregation,
Wanted to thank you for your support and prayers. We've been in London a couple months now and are starting to feel settled. We are starting to learn Sylhet, with the hope of better being able to reach people when we do outreach programs and build relationships. The younger 2 kids have started public school now and are enjoying their classes. Thanks again. Your support means a lot! If you ever have questions about our mission to the Bangladeshi, please email us at cburdsall@serge.org. In His grace, Scott & Colleen Burdsall and kids

The Banquet ministry is blessed to have many contributors who care deeply about our guests and their children. Without generous donors, The Banquet could not assist the hundreds of families who come seeking food for the body and soul. In addition to serving breakfast and supper five days a week and lunch on Saturdays, volunteers are temporarily serving meals two nights each week, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds. A permanent second serving location is under construction in northwest Sioux Falls. We are thrilled at the progress and excited for this site to open in early 2020. The additional meals are helping guests, many without transportation, access supplemental food to help stretch their grocery budgets. The guests truly appreciate the

support they receive through this ministry. Thank you for your generosity and this amazing gift of \$1,000. Tamera Jerke-Liesinger, Banquet Director

As promised in the last issue of the Echo, more details coming on our recent mission projects, as follows:

Thank you, sincerely, to everyone who filled a baby bottle with coins/cash/checks for the Cherish House maternity home (total donations \$1,441.26), packed a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child (103 boxes), gave monetary donations for the shoebox shipping fee (\$723 in total), contributed financially to *Caring Christmas* (\$1,710 in congregational donations + \$800 Mission Fund budget line item...8 families/couples/individuals were assisted with Christmas), and donated food, helping hands and monetary donations (\$665 in total) for the Church/Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner (served....213 guests, 28 workers, and 54 take outs). A special thank you to Gary & Helene Handeland for taking the shoeboxes to the Worthington American Reformed Church drop off site and to our Mission & Nurture Committee and food and kitchen coordinators for all their hard work with regards to the Thanksgiving meal. THANK YOU to everyone! You are a blessing to all those who benefitted from these mission projects.

Sincere gratitude for treating our inmates and staff to a full, delicious Thanksgiving meal! The inmates were so excited for the meal, but the pie is what made them even more excited. Thank you for being a blessing in our community and meeting a need. We truly appreciate it! Osceola County Sheriff Staff

Dawn and I would like to thank the congregation for all their prayers, Christmas gifts, cards, and support during this time of Christmas. We feel incredibly fortunate to serve you. May God continue to bless you all in the year 2020, and as we celebrate the church's 125th Anniversary the first of June.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you so much for all your love, gifts and support for our family! We are blessed to be a part of this church family. God bless, Pastor Maggie, Jake and Toby

Heartfelt gratitude to everyone who remembered me this Christmas...the good wishes, words of appreciation, monetary and other gifts, anonymous

gifts, gift cards...all was so much appreciated. A special thank you to the Session for the Christmas bonus, and, as well, all the kindnesses the congregation has shown to me throughout 2019. Denise

Congregation and Session of First Presbyterian Church, thank you for the gifts, cards, kind words, and especially your prayers during this Christmas and Advent Season. We truly appreciate your support and kindness. It is our pleasure to serve this church as its janitor. Many blessings in the new year! Kelly Jacobsma and family

Staff Thank Yous to the Session: Thank you for the Christmas gift. It was very kind of you to remember me at Christmas. I enjoy working at the church and appreciate all you do! Kelly

My thanks to the Session for the Christmas bonus. It was so much appreciated. I do not take for granted the working conditions that I am blessed with at First Presbyterian and the kindnesses of so many. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2020. Denise

Dear Session, thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. It has been my pleasure to help lead FPC in worship over the years. God's blessings to you all. Ben Jacobsma

Session, thank you for your gift and all your support for us! Hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! God bless, Pastor Maggie, Jake & Toby

I am writing to let you know how much I appreciate your recent gift to Samaritan's Purse. Your support means more than you know. Please pray for our staff and volunteers working to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and bring relief to hurting people at home and around the world. May God bless you in the new year. Franklin Graham

Thank you to all who helped with the lunch for mom's memorial service, to the church for the beautiful plant, and to Pastor Simm for the message at mom's memorial service. We also want to thank Pastor Simm and Maggie for all their prayers. It was especially comforting to us to hear that mom was able to take communion just a few days before she passed. May God bless you. The family of Dorothy Groote

Dear Church "Family," we close this 2019 with much gratitude and want to share our thankfulness! Expressing what words cannot seem to cover. You have

been faithful to us with financial support and we humbly accept your kindness and generosity. ATLAS Staff & Board

Thank you for the Walmart gift card and letter. I appreciated them both. It is hard to believe my first semester is done. Thank you again. Lauren Van Diepen

Special thanks to Rochelle Jacobsma for organizing and directing the Christmas program and also to Gina Wietzema for assisting her. Thanks to Kelly Jacobsma for doing the power point and the sound system. Thanks to Dennis Poppen for doing the power point screens, and thanks to everyone who helped in anyway to make our program meaningful. Also, thanks to our parents for furnishing the cookies for the fellowship time after the program. The Christian Education Committee

Our sincere thanks to everyone for your donations of poinsettias for the beauty of the church sanctuary and in honor and memory of loved ones. (Many plants were not called into the church office, so all we had were the attached cards, some plants without cards, and without donors' names. We are assuming on some, so please forgive us if any of the following donations/assumptions are listed in error, or someone's donation is not listed.

Priscilla & Stacy Grunow *in memory of Merlin & Tena Grunow*

Todd & Pam Juber Family *in memory of Gordon & Jeanine Wills*

Bonnie Pomrenke *in memory of George Pomrenke & Gary Pomrenke*

Randy & Colleen Goldhorn Family *in memory of Hope & Wes Goldhorn, Kathi Raman, George & Alice Martens, Marvin & Agnes Feldman*

Ruth Helmers *in memory of Wendell, Paul & Joan Helmers*

Brian & Cindy Kemp *in memory of Nolan Anders*

Dolorys Helmers *in memory of George Helmers*

Audrey Julius *in memory of Frank Julius*

Sheila Soderquist *in memory of Don Soderquist, Leslie Duin & Gayle Jacobsma*

Janet Huls' family *in memory of Bob Huls*

Frances Wills' family *in memory of Delbert Wills*

Ruby Janssen *in memory of Harold Janssen and Herman & Grace Janssen*

Les & Sharon Powers *in memory of loved ones*

The Groote Family *in memory of Dorothy Groote*

LETTER FROM THE LANTERN

Thank you to the Osceola County Ministerial Association for inviting us to provide information regarding The Lantern Ministries. Our Mission: To be a Light to our neighbors and surrounding communities by providing a safe place where everyone is welcome and to transform our world through Jesus by connecting, developing and mobilizing people for God's glory. The Lantern Ministries is a Christ-centered, non-profit ministry whose goal it is to provide a warm and welcoming environment where individuals and families can develop meaningful relationships through fellowship, faith and fun. Formerly known as Osceola Love Bank, the name was changed when the State of Iowa would not accept the word "bank" because it created the impression of being engaged in the business of banking. Organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, The Lantern Ministries receives no government support, but is solely funded by private donations and the proceeds from our coffeehouse and roastery, located in downtown Sibley. We want the people coming in the door to know that we care. Our goal is to unite the community, bringing diversity together in a loving way. Our benevolent mission is carried out through providing food gift cards to those in need and supporting missionaries, Haitian students, and many local organizations with their projects and fund-raisers. We host events such as bible studies for adults and children, youth groups, young moms and/or dads' playtime with toddlers, grief groups, musicians and special speakers, S-O Chess Club, and Coffee with the Counselor, just to name a few. Bailey's Lodge is open! Our vision of a ministry serving teens and families has finally come true in the form of a comfortable space/game area in the coffee shop's backroom. With this expansion has come many blessings, providing a safe and welcoming setting for community members to partake in a special activity, or just come and enjoy fellowship with others. Specific needs for this ministry include offsetting daily operating expenses, and funding for a Director and programs designed to encourage and empower our youth, church and unchurched, to positively impact our community. We are thrilled to see what God has planned for The Lantern Ministries with all the ways lives are and will be touched with the Light of Jesus. We ask for your prayers that our mission be accomplished to the glory of God. Any monetary support would also be appreciated. God bless your good heart for any gift you can give. Please address any questions you might have to anyone on our Board of Directors: Gene & Brenda Hoyer, Laurel Klassen, Curt & Peg Van Kley. Thank you.