

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Grace and peace to each of you in the name of Jesus Christ. We welcome you to this worship service. If you are a guest, please sign the guest book in the back of the sanctuary or fill out a visitor’s card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We would love to greet you by name. We invite you to join us every Sunday morning for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. during the school year, and worship at 10:15 a.m.

A Time of Fellowship

You are warmly invited to join us for a time of fellowship and treats in the Coffee Room next to the sanctuary immediately following the service.

✠ TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS ✠

One who suffered a fall and is in severe back pain

Those in the process of physical recovery from surgery

One who was in a car accident but is doing well

One severely burned last weekend

Those with new cancer diagnoses

For the people of Syria (assaulted on each side by violent forces)

Those facing medical challenges

All those suffering with the flu or caring for those who are sick.

One with medical challenges during pregnancy

A student battling leukemia

For healthy pregnancies

One praying for patience & facing another surgery in cancer treatment

Those hoping to be reunited in the US permanently

All who face the challenges of age, and those who care for them.

For unity for this nation and peace in this world

Missionaries

All who face the darkness and pain of addiction and struggle with despair

Those facing health issues and medical concerns

For those battling cancer and cancer recurrences

All those being persecuted and killed for their Christian beliefs, including Abune Antonios, Patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Church in Eritrea

We offer prayers of joy and thanksgiving for:

Tim & Judy Sheridan (anniversary)

Pastor Mark Hoehne’s (Lancaster) grandson, Thoren (still in UW-Madison, but gaining weight and now up to 4lbs 4oz.)

THE WEEK IN BRIEF

(events at FPC unless noted)

Sun., March 11

9:00am

Sunday School for all ages

10:15am

Worship:

Rev. M. Achtemeier, preaching

11:30am

Mission Trip Luncheon Fundraiser

6:30pm

Lenten worship

Mon., March 12

Pastor at Richland Center

Tue., March 13

4:15pm

CE @ Beth Foxen’s

Sun., March 18

9:00am

Sunday School for all ages

9:45am

Called session meeting (pastor’s study)

10:15am

Worship:

Rev. Achtemeier, preaching

11:30am-1:30pm

Confirmation class

6:30pm

Lenten worship

Banners Currently Hanging in the Sanctuary

South wall - Season of Lent; West Wall - 1 John 4:19

North Wall - Psalm 96:1 (in memory of Betty Gronau)

Deacons for the month of March: Steve & Beth Foxen

Prayer Chain requests may be called (582-4494) or emailed to the church office

Office Hours for Ginger Vander Broek, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:00-1:00pm .

Lectionary Readings for March 18th:

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Ps. 119:9-16;

Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Katherine Achtemeier

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10:15am

Founded 1847

4th Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2018

Announcements

Prelude

“Lead Me to Calvary”

arr. Larson

For Prayer and Reflection

“Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

God’s steadfast love endures forever!

Let us give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for humankind.

They cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

Let us give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for humankind.

Let us sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.

Opening Prayer

*Songs of Praise

Hymn #63

“Give to Our God Immortal Praise”

Duke Street

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

Townend

How deep the Father’s love for us, How vast beyond all measure, That He should give His only Son, To make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss -The Father turns His face away, As wounds which mar the Chosen One, Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross, My sin upon His shoulders; Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice, Call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held Him there, Until it was accomplished; His dying breath has brought me life - I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, No gifts, no power, no wisdom; But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection. Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer; But this I know with all my heart -His wounds have paid my ransom.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
We confess to you, all-knowing God, what we are. We are not the people we like others to think we are. We are afraid to admit, even to ourselves, what lies in the depths of our souls. But we cannot hide our true selves from you. You know us as we are, and yet you love us. Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge. Teach us to put our trust in your guiding power. Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt into the freedom and energy of forgiven people. And for those of us who through long habit find forgiveness hard to accept, we ask you to break our bondage and set us free; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Silent Confession (Here let each worshipper offer silent, personal prayers of confession)

Congregational Response “Kyrie”

Declaration of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri (Hymn #734)

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Numbers 21:4-9 p. 242

Choral Anthem “Be With Me, Lord” Joncas
(Megan Gloss-cantor, Hannah Eby-flute, Amanda Eby-violin)
Refrain: Be with me, Lord; be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble and need. Be with me, Lord; be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble and need. You who dwell in the shelter of God most high, who abide in Almighty’s shade, say to the Lord: “My refuge, my fortress, My God, in whom I trust.” **Refrain.** Evil shall never befall you, nor affliction come near to your tent. Unto his angels he’s given command to guard you in all your ways. **Refrain.** On their hands the angels will bear you up, lest you dash your foot ‘gainst a stone. Lion or viper might strike at your life but you will not come to harm. **Refrain.** Cling to the Lord and he’ll surely deliver you: He raises up all who call on his name. He will bring joy to your hearts and bless you with peace all in your days.

Children’s Message (Children through age 5 are invited to the nursery)

Gospel Reading John 3:14-15 p. 1650
“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.” --John 3:14

Sermon “Seeing Our Way to Life”

*Hymn of Response
Hymn #255 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” St. Christopher

*Affirmation of Faith “The Apostles’ Creed”
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (Back cover of hymnal)

Minute for Mission “Why Do We Go?” Ethan Blair & Lupe Morales

The Offering
Offertory “Adoramus Te” Palestrina / Leatherman
*Doxology
*Prayer of Dedication

*Sending Hymn
Hymn #518 “Give Thanks for Life ” Sine Nomine

*Charge and Benediction

Congregational Meeting

*Postlude “Celebration on ‘Warrenton’” arr. Wagner
*Those who are able, please stand.

Leaders in Worship:
Kristen Eby, Music Director; Jill Klinebriel, Choir Director
Rev. Katherine Achtemeier, liturgist; Dr. Mark Achtemeier, preacher

Welcoming you to First Presbyterian Church today:
Steve Foxen, greeter
Sr. High Chili & Soup Luncheon
Elissa Smith and Florence Siefker, Nursery

WELCOME GUEST PREACHER REV. DR. MARK ACHTEMEIER. Mark Achtemeier is a Presbyterian minister, writer and theologian. He is married to our pastor, Katherine Achtemeier.

Who We Are
First Presbyterian Church is a diverse community of people who are experiencing the Father’s love in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. We are called through the Scriptures to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In thankful response for all God has done for us, we serve our church, neighborhood and world—through ministries of worship, nurture, education, and outreach.

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

LUNCH IS ON US! Today, following worship, the FPC Senior High Mission Team invites you downstairs to our Chili & Zuppa Toscana Soup **Mission-Trip-Fundraiser-Luncheon**. You get to name your price! 100% of your donations will help our senior highs serve in mission in Green Bay, WI (June 24-30).

THE SESSION has called a Congregational Meeting for today, to hear the Nominating Committee’s report and to elect a new Deacon.

ON PALM SUNDAY IS MARCH 25 folks of all ages are invited to participate in the Palm Sunday processional as the children dedicate their OGHs fish banks to God. We will gather in the Coffee Hour Room at 10AM.

THERE ARE TWO GREAT REASONS to join us in the Coffee Room following worship on Palm Sunday, March 25:
♦ To enjoy our regular coffee hour and time of fellowship
♦ To attend the Senior High Mission Team’s **NOT YOUR AVERAGE BAKE SALE**, where you are invited to purchase (**You get to name the price.**) a variety of homemade items! All the proceeds go toward the expenses of our Senior High Mission Trip

5 THURSDAYS in March means that FPC serves the Café Ministry meal (March 29). March 29 is Maundy Thursday — but the First Cong folks are prepared to cover for any and all who need to leave early to get to our Maundy Thursday service. Please see the sign up in the Coffee Room.

OUR ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING goal for FPC is \$1500. Thus far **\$728.05** has been given. Envelopes are in the pews.

JULIEN CHAMBER CHOIR, under the direction of Kristen Eby, will present “Songs of Spring” on Sunday, March 18 at 3 pm at St. Anthony Catholic Church (1870 St. Ambrose St). The one-hour concert will include works by Haydn, Whitacre, Vaughan Williams and more. Donations accepted at the door (suggested: \$10; students free).

LENTEN NEWS: Blue IS THE COLOR of this week’s Lenten Devotional (*Narthex & Coffee Rm*). Sunday evening Lenten Services @ 6:30PM

SUMMER SERVICE DAYS! Jennifer Pattee is looking at options for our congregation to participate in service to our community this summer. At this point, she is looking for people to join with her in brainstorming and prayer. Please talk to her or send her an email at jenn.surrusco@gmail.com.

THE NEXT Dubuque Area Congregations United (DACU) meeting is March 27 @ Mt. Carmel, 7pm. The topic: immigration and refugees. Speak to Jennifer Pattee for more information or to go to the meeting with her.

To support the mission and ministry of our church, we need \$12,892 per month. Offerings received through March 5th totaled \$5,171.10