

First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Tim Snart

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January-February 2020

Minister's Message

Welcome, 2020! As we begin a new year, think of all of the possibilities that lie ahead. In looking back, we have met our financial goals, and 2019 was a good year as far as mission and ministry. In looking ahead, 2020 brings into view a whole new realm of potential for us to answer the call to be God's servants, and God's children. As God's servants we have opportunities to answer his call to love and serve those in need around us, and around the world. And as God's children we have the opportunity to embrace God's love, remembering that the hand of our Savior is always stretched out for us to hold onto. God's love is there for us not only to share in times of struggle and sorrow, but also to share time of success and happiness. So, my hope for us, in our individual journeys as well as our church community, is that we would never take opportunities for God's love, in good times or in bad, for granted. God loves you and me always. His love is not just for Sundays, or for life's extreme situations. God loves us when we are bored. God loves us when we are sad. God loves us when we are hurting, when we are happy, when we are overwhelmed, when we are doing routine things or very challenging things. God's love is always there for us. If we stop and think about that, many of us really only scratch the surface of the potential of our relationship with God. There is so much more Joy and love and support that could come from God's hand into our hearts if we would only say, "Here I am Lord."

Let us make it our goal in 2020 to tap further into the potential of our relationship with God. Life seems to set up road blocks sometimes, but we know that in Christ, all things are possible. Let us take advantage of all the opportunities that we have to make our lives an offering unto the Lord, instead of an offering unto ourselves. Let us take advantage of all the opportunities that we have to see and to feel our Savior's love in the hearts of those people around us. A richer sense of God's love is there for us, if only we would answer the call of our God to love all the people around us and to serve them and to fellowship with them, instead of turning our time and thoughts inward, thinking only of those ends that serve our personal needs. The light of Christ could burn with so much more brilliance.

May we see a brighter light in Christ's love as 2020 unfolds before us?

Pastor Tim

January – February 2020



Holy Communion

January 5: Larry Manecke, Mariann McWhinney, Joyce Stephens, Carla Belgarde, Kinsey Harris

February 2: Carole Taube, Carla Belgarde, Shannon Mock, Carole Bridgford, Lisa DeBaillie

Ushers

January 5: Hilde Wray
January 12: Kay & Rick Janecek
January 19: Joyce Stephens
January 26: Josh & Heather Harris

February 2: Lisa & Andy DeBaillie
February 9: Carol Stogsdill
February 16: Brian & Amy Gentry
February 23: Joyce Stephens

Fellowship

January 19: Connie Moore, Michelle Kayley, and Carol Taube
February 16: Agnes Barnhouse, Kelli & Todd Sandusky, and Melody & Paul Schnell

Greeters

January 12: Scott and Mariann McWhinney
January 19: Scott and Mariann McWhinney
January 26: Scott and Mariann McWhinney

Men's Lunch



Each second Wednesday of the month, we gather for a men's fellowship lunch. We meet at Montana Jack's at 11:45am. The conversation is informal and all are welcome to join in the fun. It is a great opportunity for the men in our church to get better acquainted with each other.

Circles



Hope Circle will meet at Riverfront Grille, 4619 34th St., Rock Island, on **Tuesday, January 21st at 9:30**. Hilde Wray will be the leader. Hope Circle will also meet **Tuesday, February 18th at 9:30** at Riverfront Grille. Carol Jean Duytschaever will be the leader.

Afternoon Circle will meet **Tuesday, January 14th** at 1:00. The hostess will be Jan Gustafson and she will also lead the lesson. They will also meet on **February 11th** at 1:00. Carol Stogsdill will be the hostess, and she will also lead the lesson.

Presbyterian Lunch



The January Presbyterian Lunch will meet for lunch on **Tuesday, January 28, at 11:30** at **McAllister's Deli** (3930 41st Ave. Dr.) The February lunch is **still to be determined**. All are invited to this casual luncheon. Please come and enjoy this time of fellowship.



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Service will be held at Beulah Presbyterian Church on February 26th at 6:30 pm. All are invited to attend.



Valentine Dinner

Our annual Valentine's Dinner will be held at Montana Jacks at 5400 27th Street, Moline, Illinois, on Sunday, February 9th at 5:00. There will be treats and decorations. Montana Jacks is offering a variety of meals from which to choose. Following are the meal choices:

Fried Catfish, Shrimp, Breaded Baked Pork chop with Gravy, Grouper, Meatloaf, and Beef Tips and Noodles. Sides choices are Baked Potato, Mashed Potato, or Broccoli.

There is a sign-up sheet for you in the back of the church, or you can RSVP the church office with your choices. The cost is \$18 per person (\$36.00 per couple), which includes tax and tip. Every meal includes the salad bar and a beverage of Soda, Coffee, Tea, or Lemonade. Payment may be made to First Presbyterian Church and turned in to the church office. Please make your reservations as early as possible in order to secure our reservation.

FLOWERS



The new Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board in the back of the church. If you would like flowers at the pulpit on any given Sunday, just sign your name on the calendar, note the person or occasion being honored, and the flowers will be ordered for you from our florist, Parkside Treasure House of Orion. The cost is \$35 and a check can be written to *First Presbyterian Church*. If you have any questions, just call the church office.

Per Capita Due

Just a reminder that your 2020 Per Capita is due. This year the Per Capita amount is **\$34.22** per church member and is due in the church office by February 16th. This money goes to the Presbytery and helps fund their operating expenses. Checks can be made out to the church. Thank you so much.

Shoebboxes



Thanks to the many generous people in our congregation, our grand total was **220** shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse International Operation Christmas Child, and they are being sent to needy children all over the world. These children will know that we care about them and that God cares about them. Please keep the boxes and the children who receive them in your prayers. What a wonderful blessing to share God's love with a child!

Annual Meeting

The Annual congregational meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 26th. In preparation for that meeting all of those responsible for reports such as Secretaries and Treasurers for our different organizations should have those reports turned into the church office now.

You should have received a letter including the proposed budget for 2020. Please look over the budget and if you have any questions, there will be an opportunity for you to ask those questions of the budget committee at the Fellowship on January 19th, or you can ask Pastor Tim.

Food Panty Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

There will be a Food Pantry Appreciation Dinner Monday, March 23rd at 6:00 for all of those who have volunteered for the Food Pantry ministry.

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”

Isaiah 4:18-19

Journey along the path of life

As you begin a fresh year, rejoice that I am continually working newness into your life. Don't let recent disappointments and failures define you or dampen your expectations. This is the time to make a fresh start! I am a God of unlimited creativity; expect Me to do surprising things in this year that stretches out before you.

Today is a precious gift. The present moment is where I meet with you, beloved. So seek my face throughout this day that I have made. I have carefully prepared it for you— with tender attention to every detail. I want you to rejoice and be glad in it.

Search for signs of My loving Presence as you journey along the path of life. Look for the little pleasures I have strewn alongside your pathway – sometimes in surprising places – and thank Me for each one. Your thankfulness will keep you close to Me and help you find Joy in your journey.

By Sarah Young

Each one of us is God's special work of art.

Through us He teaches and inspires, delights and encourages, informs and uplifts all those who view our lives.

Joni Eareckson Tada



A Senior Citizen's Lament

Thought I'd let my doctor check me,
Cause I didn't feel quite right.
All those aches and pains annoyed me,
And I couldn't sleep at night.
He could find no disorder,
but he couldn't let it rest.
What with Medicare and Blue Cross
it wouldn't hurt to do some tests.
To the hospital he sent me
though I didn't feel that bad.
He arranged for them to give me
every test that could be had.
I was fluoroscoped and cystoscoped,
my aging frame displayed,
Stripped upon a nice cold table
while my gizzards were X-rayed.
I was checked for worms and parasites,
for fungus and the crud,
While they pierced me with long needles
taking samples of my blood.
Doctors came to check me over,
probed and pushed and poked around.
And to make sure I was living,
they wired me for sound.
They have finally concluded
(their results have filled a page.)
What I have some day will kill me.
My affliction is OLD AGE.

Monthly Missions

January: Christian Family Care
February: Missionaries

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

