

First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Tim Snart
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March - April 2020

Minister's Message

As you may know, the season of Lent is well underway. Lent is the time on the church calendar when we especially try to recognize the journey that Jesus took toward Calvary. Of course, it is important that we become familiar with the stories associated with the sacrifice of Jesus, but I also believe that Lent is a time for all of us to ponder what Jesus' sacrifice means in our life. When the nails pierced Jesus' flesh what benefit was that for you? He died because he loves you. He died to open a door in your life so that you would be heir to the kingdom of God the Father.

The center of the Lenten message occurs in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus comes to the place where he must accept the purpose that God had for him to do. He says "Father, if it is possible, take this cup from me, yet not as I will, but thy will be done. And from that moment on Jesus' mission was to be a living sacrifice in order to reconcile a sinful people to their Creator who is God the Father. Jesus died to deliver humanity from the darkness of sin and into the light of God's eternal Kingdom. In the context of Jesus' love we come to know about grace and mercy. By the blood that Jesus shed as he died on the cross we have the opportunity to know what it means to be forgiven for our sin. We come to know what it means to be loved unconditionally. We did nothing to deserve the deliverance the cross gives us. The love of Jesus is a gift that was freely given so that we might know the love of the Father.

Without the cross we are a square peg and the kingdom of God is a round whole. Jesus' love rounds our corners so that we fit perfectly into the niche that God has carved out for us since before the beginning of time. During this Lenten Season ask yourself, what does it mean for you to trust Jesus Christ? What does it mean for you to obey His command to love? What does the love from the cross of Jesus mean to you? How does that love change your life? Does your life reflect a spirit thankful and ready to respond appropriately?

Pastor Tim



***“He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you,
while he was still with you in Galilee” Luke 24:6***



March – April 2020



Holy Communion

March 1: Roy Gustafson, Carla Belgarde, Kensey Harris, Shannon Mock, Carole Bridgford

April 5: Larry Manecke, Jodie Mortensen, Jodie White, Kay Janecek, Amy Gentry

Easter April 12

Carol Taube, Michelle Kahley, Larry Manecke, Joyce Stephens, Deb Boudi

Ushers

March 1: Paul & Melody Schnell

March 8: Pete & Carol Jean Duytschaever

March 15: Larry & Kay Manecke

March 22: Joyce Stephens

March 29: Steve & Teresa Bradley

April 5: Youth

April 12: Hilde Wray

April 19: Kevin & Jodie Mortensen

April 26: Dave & Donna Jenkins

Men's Lunch.

Each second Wednesday of the month, we gather for a men's fellowship lunch. They are held 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. Hope to see you on March 11th and April 8th.

Fellowship

March 15: Sharon & Mike Evans, Barb Miller, and Becky & Brian Morley

April 19: Carolynn & Jack Murphy, Carol McCall, and Hilde Wray

Circles



Hope Circle will meet at Riverside Grill on **Tuesday, March 17th at 9:30.** Carla Belgarde will be the Leader. Hope Circle will also meet **Tuesday, April 21st at 9:30** at Riverside Grill. Darlene Sanchez will be the leader.

Afternoon Circle will meet **Tuesday, March 10th.** The hostess will be Sharon Evans and Carole Bridgford will lead the lesson. They will also meet on **April 14th.** Jan Gustafson will be the hostess and Connie Moore will lead the lesson.

Monthly Missions

March: Baby Pantry

April: Heifer International

Presbyterian Lunch

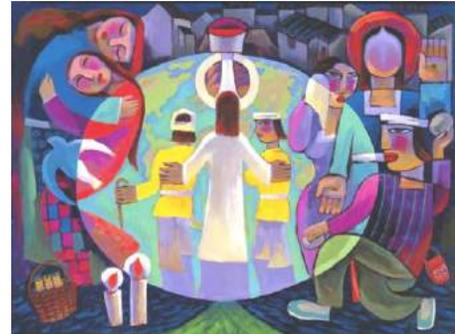


The March Presbyterian Lunch will meet for lunch on **Tuesday, March 24th at 11:30** at **The Steel Plow** (Moline). The April Presbyterian Lunch will meet on **Tuesday, April 28th at 11:30** at **TGI Fridays** (Moline). All are invited to this casual luncheon. Please come and enjoy this time of fellowship.

Lent



Lent is the season to set some extra time aside for worship and service in order to honor the sacrifice that Jesus made to purchase our salvation into God’s eternal presence. There are several extra opportunities during Lent for us to honor Jesus’ sacrifice at Calvary. This year’s Lenten activities are described below.



This year we are going to have two “Lenten Breakfasts.” They will be held at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall. These breakfasts give us a chance to fellowship with each other, and at the same time, we can consider the role that mission has in our Lenten Pilgrimage. We will hear this year from two of our missions, “Winnie’s Place” and “World Relief” Please plan on coming to hear about these missions and how we might be a part of their ministry.

March 18 Winnie’s Place
April 8 World Relief

Journey of Passion

This year on April 5th, at 7:30 pm, our church will be sharing an interesting evening of reflection entitled “Journey of Passion.” This is a meaningful way to reflect on Jesus’ journey to the cross. This will be an excellent way to start out Holy Week and we hope that each one of you will plan to attend. The public has been invited. Tickets are available.

Cast:

Peter	Mark Wier
James	Ken Snart
Thomas	Matt Gessner
Mother of James and John	Jan Gustafson
Zacchaeus	Ben Snart
Martha	Heather Crouch
Woman who Anoints Jesus	Laura DeBaillie
Judas	Brian Gentry
Jesus	Bryn Lawrence
Simon the Leper	Dave Schillinger
Thaddeus	Joey Mock
Nathaniel	Bob Lambert
Andrew	Ron Ristau
Phillip	Rick Liedtke
John	Larry Manecke
Mary Mother of Jesus	Shelly Johnson
Mary Magdalene	Shelly Liedtke
Nicodemus	Pastor Tim Snart
Narrator	Mindy Carls
Worship Leader	Michelle Kahley



The Words of Jesus from the Cross

On March 15th at 7:00 p.m. we will be having our annual Evening Lenten Service. The theme of the evening will be “The Words of Jesus from the cross.” Please put this date on your calendar and come and join us for this meaningful worship experience.

Food Pantry Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

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



Sunday, April 5th Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week. With the help of the children of our congregation we will celebrate Palm Sunday with the "Procession of the Palms" during our regular worship service. Please make sure to have your children here to participate in this meaningful tradition.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

This year our Maundy Thursday Service will be a joint service with our sister congregation, Beulah. The service will be held at Beulah Presbyterian Church on Thursday April 9th at 6:30 pm. There will be a special meal along with the sharing of the Lord's Supper. Please come and join our hearts together as we witness His amazing Love?



Graduates

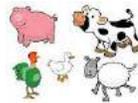
The Deacons are requesting the names of all those who are graduating this year, either from high school or college. We would like to recognize their accomplishments. Please contact the church office or your Deacon when you can. We don't want to miss anyone, so please let us know! Thanks.



Easter Services

Easter Sunday, April 12th 8:00 a.m., we will join our hearts together in a meaningful expression of joy and praise to the good news that Christ is risen. There will be a meaningful early service to celebrate the good news that Christ is risen and that He is the author of our salvation to a life eternal.

Immediately following the early service, there will be a tasty Easter breakfast fellowship allowing a time to continue on our way rejoicing in the joy of Easter, that Christ the Lord is risen and that His people are delivered into the kingdom of our Heavenly Father who reigns in heaven and on earth. Our regular Worship will follow the breakfast at 10:30.



Heifer International

As has been our tradition, our Sunday School classes will be going shopping for poverty-stricken communities served by Heifer International. They will shop for things like ducks, honey bees, sheep, pigs, llamas and water buffalo, just to name a few. The idea is for these agricultural gifts to be the beginning of a flock or heard that can serve the community way beyond the original gift and

eventually one community can share livestock with communities nearby so that one gift not only grows into agricultural base for a community but also can be a warm expression of God's saving love in



all around the world.

Children International

As you may know, our church sponsors two children by way of Children International. Children around the world are a part of the program Children International. Our sponsored children are a girl from Mexico, Andrea Dayanna Carranza Leon (age 11) from Mexico and a young boy named Kyle Banzuela (age 11) from the Philippines.

Please visit the bulletin boards outside the men's restroom for information and updates on Kyle and Andrea.



Daffodil Sunday

March 15th is going to be designated as Daffodil Sunday. The flowers in the front of the church that day will be daffodils. They are a sign of the first new life of spring each year. This day will be a cancer awareness day. The daffodils will be a symbol of hope and light in a place where there has been much darkness. The daffodils will help us to recognize the courage of those who have survived cancer, remember those who have passed and to pray for those who are currently battling cancer as well as their family members. May our prayers always be for those whose lives are affected by this terrible disease?

Blood Drive

St. Maria Goretti will be hosting a blood drive on Saturday, March 28, from 7-12 noon. If you are interested in donating, please call Dean Martens at 309-798-6366.



Knit/Crochet Club

We have started a Knitting /crochet club at our church. They will meet every first and second Thursday from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. God has placed a passion in the hearts of the people of the First Presbyterian Church to recognize people who are

in need of warm hats, mittens and scarves during the winter months. In addition, provide prayer shawls to those who need to feel God's arms and Love at times of sadness, grief, sickness and anticipated surgery. All are invited to come join us.



Scout Food Drive

Put on your calendar the annual Scout Food Drive. On the morning of April 4th, the scouts will collect food from all of the homes in Coal Valley that they can reach. As you may know, the food that they collect will be donated to the Coal Valley Food Pantry, so watch for the Scouts and be supportive of our youth who are trying to make a difference. If you do not live in Coal Valley and you would like to support the scout food drive, there will be a place in the rear of the church for you to donate. We will be sure that your donation is credited to the scouts drive.

There is a lot of work to be done when the food comes into the church on the day it is collected. The food has to be sorted, counted and boxed up, and the more helpers we have the quicker the work gets done. The process of sorting and packing the food will begin at 11:00am at the church. If you are interested in helping on the 4th of April, let Pastor Tim know.

You Say... God Says...

<u>You Say</u>	<u>God Says</u>	<u>Bible Verses</u>
I can't figure it out.	I will direct your steps.	Proverbs 3:5-6
I'm too tired.	I will give you rest.	Matthew 11:28-30
It's impossible.	All things are possible.	Luke 18:27
Nobody loves me.	I love you.	John 3:16
I can't forgive myself.	I forgive you.	Romans 8:1
It's not worth it.	It will be worth it.	Romans 8:28
I'm not smart enough.	I will give you wisdom.	I Corinthians 1:30
I'm not able.	I am able.	II Corinthians 9:8
I can't go on.	My grace is sufficient.	II Corinthians 12:9
I can't do it.	You can do all things.	Philippians 4:13
I can't manage.	I will supply all your needs.	Philippians 4:19
I'm afraid.	I have not given you fear.	II Timothy 1:7
I feel all alone.	I will never leave you.	Hebrews 13:5

BIBLE WORD SEARCH!

BASIC WORDS OF THE BIBLE

G E N T I L E B I B L E D
O B A A B R T J E M D I I
D P I I E S I M N I P B N
T E M P T A T I O N J A H
H R P S H L H R P I E P O
E S R A L V E A N S R T L
F E A C E A H C A T U I Y
A C Y R H T O L Z R S Z S
T U E I E I L E A Y A E P
H T I F M O Y J R H L N I
E E S I N N A J E W E H R
R W E C L F A I T H M L I
B S J E S U S C H R I S T

JESUS CHRIST

SALVATION

JEW

GENTILE

HOLY SPIRIT

GOD THE FATHER

PERSECUTE

PRAY

TITHE

MINISTRY

BIBLE

HOLY

SACRIFICE

FAITH

MIRACLE

NAZARETH

BETHLEHEM

JERUSALEM

BAPTIZE

TEMPTATION

SIN