

The First Epistle

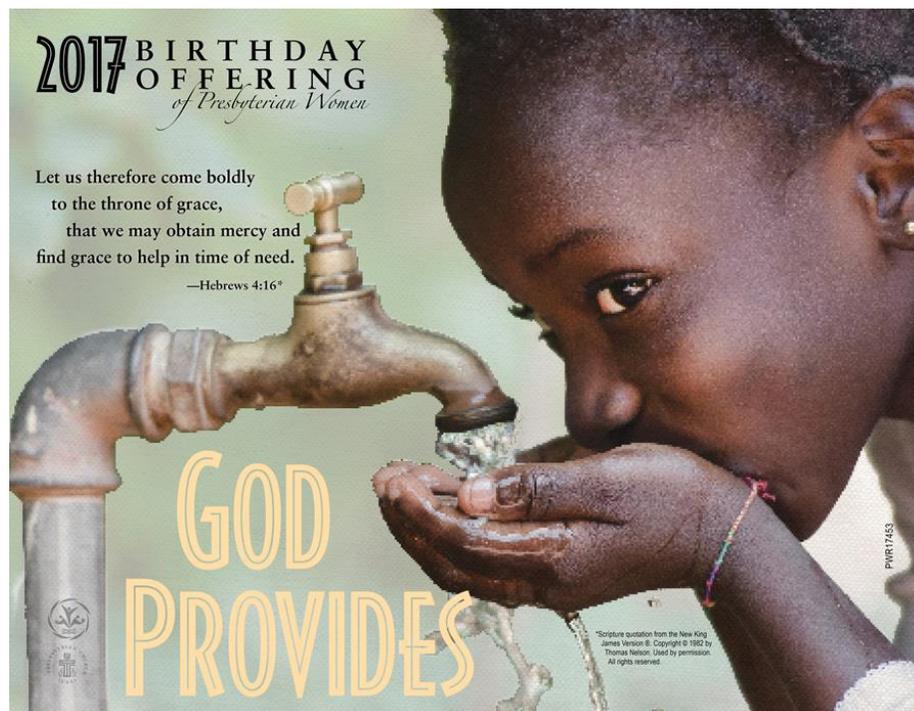


First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established 1872

March 2017

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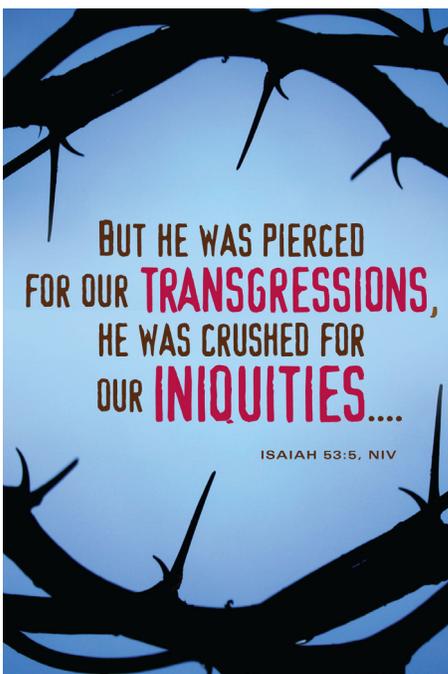
The Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian women have a long tradition of caring for others and helping those in need. Ever since 1922, when Hallie Paxson Winsborough, superintendent of women's work in the PCUS, visited Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Kochi, Japan, and challenged members of the Woman's Auxiliary to give one penny for each year of their lives (or a dollar if a woman preferred not to reveal her age) as a birthday gift to the school, Presbyterian women's Birthday Offering has helped fund major mission projects that have improved the lives of women and children around the world.

Though this offering was initially planned to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary, the idea of giving to a specific mission project each year caught on. When the Woman's Auxiliary became Women of the Church in 1948, and when Women of the Church joined with United Presbyterian Women in 1988 to form Presbyterian Women in the PC (USA) in 1988, the Birthday Offering continued to be an important part of women's "second-mile" giving. While the projects and donation amounts have changed, Presbyterian Women's commitment to improving the lives of others has not. We continue to need broad, consistent support from Presbyterian women and others in order to continue funding mission projects like the ones selected for 2017.

Since the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women reviews proposals and selects recipients before the Birthday Offering is collected, grant amounts for the recipients will depend on gifts contributed during 2017.

To learn more, visit www.presbyterianwomen.org or see the January/February 2017 issue of Horizons magazine.



The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead

Worship: 10:30 am — Sunday School: 9:15am-10:15am (all ages)

2900 Fifth Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560

www.firstpresmhd.org

218.233.1192

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstpresmhd

E-mail Addresses:

Church: admin@firstpresmhd.org

Newsletter Articles: nadineswee@yahoo.com

Our mission is to be a caring community of God's people who live by Christ's teachings, reach out to others to share the love of God, and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, thought, and action.



Mid Week Meal & Program

Wed. March 1st

Supper: Cod, meatballs for the non-fish eaters, new potatoes, creamy cucumber/tomato salad, lefse, milk, caramel waffle cookies and rommegrot

Wed. March 8th

Supper: Various egg bakes, fruit cups, caramel rolls, milk

Wed. March 15th

Supper: Rueben and Rachel sandwiches, sweet potato fries, pickles, milk, Irish cream cake

Wed. March 22nd

Supper: Bean & Ham soup, cornbread, coleslaw, fruit kabobs, milk, pecan bars

Wed. March 29th

Supper: Potluck, milk

Meal time: 6:00-6:45pm

Programming: 6:45pm (Program start time may vary slightly)

Meal donation is suggested at \$6 adult / \$2 child

You are always welcome to be our guest should this be a financially tight time in life. Your company is enough.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Theresa Samuels

Josh Peterson

Plinio Espinosa

Mabel Schneider

Laura Hagemann

Austyn

Donald and Marion DeJong

Carley Farley Meade



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Chris Swee	March 2	Melissa Selders-Ortez	March 19
Elenore Adair	March 2	Robert Long	March 19
Helen Pemble	March 6	Janet VanAmburg	March 24
Ineke Justitz	March 6	Curtis Martin	March 29
Reene Akason	March 11	Mary Larson	March 30
Robert Ballard	March 12	Juneve Givers	March 30
Ana Nelson	March 17		

2017 Per Capita

The 2017 Per Capita is \$44.00 per confirmed member. The apportionment for First Presbyterian Church is \$7,172.

This amount is based on our membership on December 31, 2015 of 163 members. Please pay your per capita as soon as you are able.



Pastor Reflections

We have entered the season of Lent in the church year. This is a time to prepare and look forward to Easter. The 40 days of Lent before Easter, (not including Sundays) is a time where we are called to focus on Jesus and our Christian discipleship. We can ask the question: What it means to follow the One who lived, died and rose from the dead for our salvation.

Lent is a chance for us to practice focusing on God in Christ. Christians through the centuries have looked at the time of Lent as a way to improve our relationship with God. It is a chance to try new spiritual disciplines.

It is not always a need to give up something. If people do fast and give up something, it is then a chance to give something else away. Sometimes if food is given up, like chocolate or ice cream, then the money saved is given as an offering to a charity.

Lent can be adding something new. For some, Lent can be a time of adopting a new spiritual practice. This can mean engaging in walking prayer, Bible study, or some other active habit that guides us in a certain direction and focuses more of our life on Christ.

In the past, I have looked at the 40 days of lent as a pilgrimage. For me it is a new devotional book or maybe a prayer practice I have not done in a while. This year I am using **Presbyterians Today** Lent devotional "Meeting Jesus". I will also share the labyrinth with everyone over this Lenten season by taping a labyrinth on the floor in the fellowship hall. The labyrinth has been an ancient symbol of pilgrimage for the church.

We have a new website for First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead. I will be using our social media resources and website to post devotionals for lent. There is a devotional that Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PCUSA) has made available for churches to use. I will be using this as one resource. We also have that in a PDF format and can print the booklet out for any church member who desires. Ask us if you would like one.

I have been blessed this year by being able to study the Horizons Bible Study with the ladies of Circle One. That has given me a chance to see Jesus through different lenses. I invite you to journey with me this Lenten season in spiritual practices. You are invited to try a new Bible reading on your own, use one of the many devotionals available, try the labyrinth as a walking prayer mediation. We will also be using the idea of pilgrimage in several of the Mid-Week Wednesday programs.

The Mid-Week program on Wednesday, March 22nd will be devoted to the Community Garden. It is an opportunity for giving of your time and talents and helping to start and grow a new mission project and outreach of First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead.

So come along with us this season and meet Jesus again.

Grace and Peace

- Pastor Paul

"Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed" - Isaiah 53:4-5



Easter Lilies

Easter is not that far away. As we begin the Lenten Season please consider adding an Easter Lily for display in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. You can give a lily to honor a person, or in memory of a loved one. Deadline for purchase is Palm Sunday and the cost is \$10. Please see Elizabeth Swee 701-446-7479 or bswee@aol.com or contact the church office.

News & Events

Session News from February

- Session welcomed new elders, Scott Dobovsky, Kim Kelsh, Peggy Johnson, Kathy McKaig and Walt Worman. Elder committee assignments were determined. Ordination and Installation occurred on January 29. Elder training is scheduled for March 25.
- Chris Swee was elected as Church Treasurer, and LuAnn Buehre was elected the Clerk of Session for another year. Walt and Kim will serve on the 2017 Nominating Committee.
- There are 149 Active members.
- Member giving was reported to be slightly ahead of projected giving for January and February 2017.
- Personnel and Christian Ed presented a job description for the Leader of Christian Education Ministry. A few changes were suggested. It will come back to session for approval.
- Session approved a special offering for Margo Worman's Peace Corps Zambia project, the construction of a health outpost. The special offering for this will be Sunday March 5.

Winter Snow Removal Schedule

FEB 29-MAR 5	Chris Swee
MAR 6-12	Tim Ortez
MAR 13-19	Frank Kratky
MAR 20-26	John Ortez
MAR 27-APR 2	Mitchell Mckaig
APR 3-9	Erik Swee
APR 10-16	Scott Ecker
APR 17-23	Ron Johnson



March Hospitality Team:

Garrick & Mary Larson

Scott Ecker / Monika Browne

Hal & Pegi Ecker

Jay & Bonnie Erickson**

** Group Leaders

The process of Calling A Pastor

The PNC continues to work on the MIF-the Mission Information Form. This document provides a narrative picture of the mission and ministry of our congregation and its sense of call. The MIF will be used to express our ministry context, demographics, history, theology, values, leadership needs, and expectations. When the document is completed, the session will review it, and approve it. It then goes to the Presbytery for their approval.

Members of the PNC are: Kim Kelsh, Nadine, Swee, Janet VanAmburg, Joni Lordeman and Adam Massie.

We always thank
GOD for all of you
 and continually
 mention you in
 our prayers.

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

Carley Farley Meade recently completed her six months of chemo treatments for colon cancer which had spread to her lungs. Now we pray for positive scans and reports in the coming months.

Carley, age 40, lives in Nashville and is the niece of Barb and Walt Worman.

Prayers for the Moyers family of Baltimore, Maryland (friends of the Wormans). Amy Moyers, age 46, recently passed away unexpectedly in her sleep due to a stroke. Amy leaves behind her parents, siblings and a five year old daughter, Emily.

Scrip

Orders placed by Sunday, March 5th, will be available for pickup on Sunday, March 12th. See www.shopwithscrip.com for a full list of available retailers. If you have any questions, contact Chris Swee at ceswee@gmail.com or 218-329-7763.



News & Events



We have been invited to join the Fargo church on their ski trip on Saturday, March 4th. It costs \$45 to attend. Please let me know if your youth or any friends are attending by February 26th.

On Sunday, March 19th we will be shopping for items that the Youth would use in the Youth Room. It is time to replenish the games and equipment for them. Meet at the Church at 3:00 pm, we will finish in time for Confirmation.

Crystal Springs Retreat information is soon to come. Contact Scott Ecker with questions.



Dorothy Day House of Hospitality & Food Pantry:

We will serve on Monday, March 27th at 6:15 p.m. Additional hours are available to help out on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. (or as long as you can stay).

Please consider serving each month with your church congregation. It is great fellowship and helps out the pantry in a very important mission.

We cannot do it without you! If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Woods at 236-9917. *Please join us when you are able!*



IN HIS GREAT MERCY

he has given us
new birth into a
living hope
 through the resurrection
 of **Jesus Christ...**

1 PETER 1:3, NIV

News & Events

Mulonda Health Post Project, Zambia

from Margo Worman (mfworman@gmail.com)

Over the past 21 months many of you have expressed a desire to support my Peace Corps service in some way. Well, that opportunity is now here!!

Mulonda is a community located about 15km (9 miles) away from the nearest health facility, a clinic in Keembe. Transportation options in the area are extremely limited and the road is in poor condition, particularly during the rainy season. These challenges have prevented many community members from accessing health care services. An extremely high percentage of children are born at home, some en route to the clinic. Community members and in particular, children and the elderly, are often unable to seek treatment when they are sick or injured.

Recognizing how this distance has impacted the community's ability to seek preventative and curative health care services, the Mulonda community formed a building committee and began constructing a clinic in 2014. Through mobilizing their own resources, the community has made astounding progress on the building, successfully constructing the foundation, walls, and roof of the facility. Yet completing this project on their own would take many, many years. I am hoping to speed this process along and help them finish the clinic building and build an accompanying staff house this year. That's where you come in.

I have established a Peace Corps Partnership Program grant which will help the community complete the clinic building and construct a staff house plus latrines and bathing shelters. Constructing a staff house will allow the government to place a qualified healthcare worker at Mulonda who can meet the health care needs of the 5,000 people who will be served by the facility. We hope to resume construction when the rainy season ends in April.

The community will need to make and bake 24,500 bricks!

The grant will also fund training for community volunteers who will support clinic staff in providing health services and education to the community. This training will cover health topics including HIV, child nutrition, malaria, and reproductive health. Potential impacts of the project include reduced child mortality rates, safer deliveries, improved access to clinical care services, and reduced rates of preventable diseases.



The health post site is not connected to the electrical grid, so we also plan to purchase four solar lighting setups, two for the health post and two for the staff house. Each setup includes a solar panel, a battery, and three lights. In addition to powering the lights, the solar setup can charge clinic staff and volunteers' cell phones. The total cost for all four solar setups is \$500. First Presbyterian can help ensure that the Mulonda Health Post has the lighting needed to deal with medical emergencies day or night. Let there be light!

I am hoping you will support improved health care access in my village by making a donation. Donations of any size are appreciated and are tax deductible. 100% of donations will go directly toward this project. If you are not able to donate yourself, I would appreciate it if you could share this information with your friends, family, co-workers.

Donations may be made payable to First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead (with "Peace Corps" noted on the memo line or envelope). Then the total amount collected will be donated to this project via the Peace Corps donation web site. Donations may also be made online at <https://donate.peacecorps.gov/donate/project/rural-health-post2376/> Thank you to those individuals or groups who have already made a donation to the Mulonda Health Post.

If you'd like to learn more about the Mulonda community and how they would benefit from having their own clinic, check out my blog post about the project at margoworman.zambia.wordpress.com

This clinic will have a huge impact on my community and their ability to lead healthy lives!

Thank you so, so much for your support of this project!!



News & Events

Special Offerings from 2016 Breakdown – Annual Meeting Request

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering are the four church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Each displays Jesus Christ's love for the whole church and plays an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church. Over the years, these offerings have provided ways for individuals and congregations to join together with each other and in partnership with other Christians in responding to a variety of concerns.



In addition, our congregation is often called to support specific causes in the local and global community. Thank you for answering the call and sharing Christ's love!

2016 Special Offerings

- **OGHS:** \$ 462.13- The denomination splits One Great Hour of Sharing between the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- **PENTECOST:** \$170 total- The Offering is in support of at-risk children, and support of young people.
\$102 to Presbytery/General Assembly (GA) (60% of offering).
\$68 to Churches United for the Homeless (40% stays local)
- **PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS:** \$469 total- The Offering enables the church to promote peace & address injustice.
\$351.75 to Presbytery/Synod/GA (75% of offering)
\$117.25 to the Sheltering Churches program (25% stays local)
- **CHRISTMAS JOY:** \$239 – The Offering helps to provide financial assistance to church workers, and enable students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools.

In addition, we participated in the **Souper Bowl of Caring:** \$318 was donated to the Bdecan Food Pantry, plus 49 pounds of food was collected and donated.

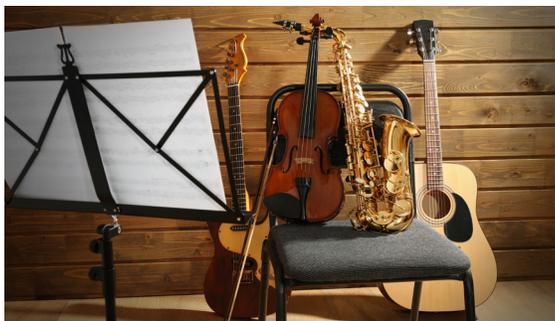
Per Capita paid in 2016 was: \$7569. This is the total Per Capita owed for 2016!!

Additional Mission Giving done in 2016:

- SERRV: \$284
- Dorothy Day & Churches United for the Homeless: \$146.63 each
(proceeds designated from the Talent Auction in November 2016.)
- Community Garden: \$1319.66
(proceeds designated from the Talent Auction)
- Churches United for the Homeless: \$335.25
(proceeds designated from the Vendor Fair)
- Haiti (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – hurricane relief) \$83
(plant sales at Vendor Fair)
- Presbyterian World Mission: \$131.63
(Mother's Day Special offering)
- Fair Trade/ Equal Exchange, coffee etc.: \$898.20
- Zatoun Oil: \$480.00
- Deacon mission opportunities: \$370
- Local Benevolence: \$100 to First Link

First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead
2900 Fifth Street South
Moorhead, MN 56560

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering

First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead, Minnesota

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

"INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE"

Our Guest Speakers: Elona Street Stewart, synod executive and first Native American woman to hold the position, a long time racial ethnic advocate; and Sue Medsker-Nedderman, USA Global Experience, shares her mission experience in the San Francisco Bay area.

Registration 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m.

Registration fee: \$15.00 payable to PWP

RSVP by April 15 to PWP Moderator Lana Schultz by phone 701-238-4538 or email lanaj0@casselton.net



March Worship Schedule

Sun. March 5th - Celebrating the Gifts of Women

Sun. March 12th - Second Sunday in Lent

Be Born of Water and Spirit

- John 3:1-17

- Genesis 12:1-4

- Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Sun. March 19th - Third Sunday in Lent

Come, Drink Living Water

- John 4:5-42

- Exodus 17:1-7

- Romans 5:1-11

Sun. March 26th - Fourth Sunday in Lent

I Was Blind and Now I See

- John 9:1-41

- 1 Samuel 16:1-13

- Ephesians 5:8-14