



Presbyterian Parables

April 2017

First Presbyterian Church
Lexington, Nebraska

Volume 17,
Issue 4

LENTEN LUNCH SCHEDULE

April 6 First United Methodist Church (201 E. 8th St)



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

CANTATA

The cantata "Champion of Love" will be performed Palm Sunday, April 9th at the 10:00 a.m. worship hour. Invite relatives, friends and neighbors to attend with you and join in the journey that will lead your heart from Calvary to the empty tomb and proclaim that Jesus lives!



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Communion will be served.

EASTER SUNDAY

- 7:30 AM— Easter Sunrise Service
- 8:30 AM— Easter Breakfast
- 9:00 AM— Children's Activities
- 10:00 AM— Easter Worship Service



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible will take place May 30 through June 2, from 9:00 am to noon at First Presbyterian Church, in cooperation with First United Methodist Church and Grace Lutheran Church. The theme for this year is *Hero Central*. This promises to be an exciting adventure for the children this year!

The children will be making super hero costume pieces (wrist cuffs, masks, & shields) during craft time throughout the week and we are in need of the following items: Empty toilet paper rolls, Duct tape (any color or pattern!), Stickers (stars, circles, anything "super hero-like!"). You can leave donations in the Hero Central box in the Narthex. As we continue planning, we will let you know of any other needs. Thank you for your support!

Registration forms will be included in the May newsletter.



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First Presbyterian Church

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First Presbyterian Church of Lexington

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School

9:00 a.m. - Coffee/Fellowship

10:00 a.m. - Worship/nursery provided

11:00 a.m. - Coffee

Church Staff

Teaching Elder: Rev. Polly Deppen-Williams

Hostess: Linda Anthony

Financial Secretary: Julie Rickertsen

Office Manager: Alice Screws

Music Coordinator: Dian Lauby

Joy Ringers and Chancel Choir Director:

Holly Rickertsen

Ruling Elders

Dale Biehl Da'Lacy Lans

Karla Denker Linda Lauby

Ed Heusinkvelt Steve Luther

Paula Kearney Mary Reed

Gene Nansel, Clerk of Session

Deacons

Dorothy Bremer Rhea Musil

Vicki Davis Tom Musil

Marlene DeLap Carol Nelson

Jonelle Lans (elect) Lisa Pebley

LaDonna McClure Pat Sherman

Larry Moomey Carol Stock

Serving in April

Head Ushers: Dale & Jo Sherman

Greeters: Bernice & Lisa Pebley

Offering Counters: Ed Heusinkvelt and a Properties Volunteer

Lay Leaders:

April 2 – Andrea Nisley

April 9 – Gene Nansel

April 16 – Shoshana Patocka

April 23 – Diane Yeutter

April 30 – Sharon Steinberger

***** Lay Leaders: If you switch Sundays with another Lay Leader, please let the church office know by Thursday noon of that week so that the Lay Leader can be listed correctly in the Sunday bulletin.**

Nursery Volunteers:

April 2 – Cecilia Rios

April 9 – Isabella Carlson

April 16 – Jordan Lans

April 23 – Kamryn Pike

April 30 – Abbie Owens

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Endowment/Gifts - April 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Faith Team - April 4 – 6:15 p.m.

Giving Team - April 11 – 6:30 p.m.

Welcoming Team – April 18 – 6:30 p.m.

Properties Team – April 17 – 7:00 p.m.

Personnel Team – April ? – 5:45 p.m.

Session – April 28 – 7:30 p.m.

CARD SHOWER FOR DON KNAPP

-THE FAMILY OF DON KNAPP is requesting a card shower for him as he recovers from a stroke at Hillcrest Health & Rehab, 1702 Hillcrest Drive Room 35 , Bellevue NE. 68005.

SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS

-OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS are with Geraldine Bricker on the death of her brother, Gerald "Bud" McColloch, of Ogallala, and to LaDonna McClure on the death of her mother, Margarie Cool, of Arnold.



Dear Friends,

This has been a difficult few months for our church and our community. Already this year we have had five funerals in our congregation. Now our thoughts and prayers are with Dwayne as he recovers from 3rd degree burns on his legs. Every day we seem to hear about something else happening to someone we care for and love.

Each of us have difficult days that we experience - illness, loss of jobs, of relationships, loss of loved ones. But it is because of Easter that we can go on and face another day.

My Dad died in March of 2013, two months before our wedding. Daddy had been struggling with Parkinson's Disease for about twenty years and for the last three to four years of his life he went from being homebound to moving into a nursing home. His mind was slipping and his body was twisting. Eleven days after Daddy died, I had to preach on Easter Sunday and I struggled with what to say in the midst of the grief I was experiencing. I will always miss my Dad, but it is because of Easter that I can cope with the grief I still have over his death. It is because of Easter that I know I will see my Dad again when my time on earth is done and I join him in heaven. It is because of Easter that I know that Jesus conquered death and through him we have eternal life. It is because of Easter that we who call ourselves Christians affirm with tears and joy this hope of the gospel. We proclaim our faith in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Because Christ lives, we will live also.

Bill & Gloria Gaither wrote a song over thirty years ago. In the late 1960s, while expecting their third child, Bill and Gloria Gaither were going through a rather traumatic time in their lives. Bill was recovering his strength from a bout with mononucleosis. They, along with their church, were the objects of accusation and belittlement. Gloria was experiencing a time of torment, including fear of the future and of bringing children into such a crazy, mixed-up world. As Gloria sat alone in a darkened living room, tormented, and fearful, the Lord sent a calm and peaceful rest to her. The power of the resurrection of Christ seemed to affirm itself in their lives once again. Gloria remembers the realization that it was LIFE conquering death in the regularity of my day. The joy seemed to overcome and take precedent over frightening human circumstances. And the song *Because He Lives* came out of their personal bout with darkness. Here are the beautiful words of the refrain:

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow
Because he lives all fear is gone
Because I know he holds the future
And life is worth the living just because he lives.

That is the wonderful message of Easter, "And life is worth the living just because He lives."

Grace & peace,

Pastor Polly



Birthday Club

BIRTHDAY CLUB

JOIN THE BIRTHDAY CLUB! In your birthday month contribute \$1.00 (or 10 cents or a quarter, etc.) for each year of your life so far. The thousands of dollars contributed each year go to the Endowment Fund. The fund generates interest which is divided between Physical Facilities and Outreach Fund. If you would like to contribute, there are specially marked envelopes in the pews, or you can write "Birthday Club" on your check.

Kay Denker, Bertha Rickertsen, Bruce Rickertsen, and Alex Rickertsen joined the Birthday Club in March.

SOUTHSIDE BIBLE STUDY

Southside Bible Study meets most Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the church library. We will be studying the Holy Spirit. All are welcome to come and join us for lively conversation, snacks and fellowship.



MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle meets April 20 at Brookdale at 2:00 p.m. Carol Nelson is Hostess. Dorothy Woodside has the lesson.

FAITH CIRCLE

Will meet April 27 at 9:00 a.m. and will continue to meet during the summer months, through November 16. In April, Joan Rupke is hostess, and Anne Grubb has the lesson.

LOGOS NEWS



The theme for LOGOS this year is *Following the Calendar*. Kristin Steinberger will be in charge of table decorating for March 29 and April 5, which will follow the theme *Easter/Spring*.

The final LOGOS for the season will be April 5. Enjoy the summer and we'll see you back for LOGOS in the fall after school starts!

LOGOS for K-5th graders begins at 4:30 p.m. and ends at 6:30 p.m. Grades 6-12 LOGOS begins at 6:00 p.m. and finishes at 7:45 p.m.



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Once every six weeks we spend a week helping folks get a good hot noon meal, delivered with a friendly face and a smile! If you are willing or able to volunteer, please Contact Sharon Steinberger at 324-2060. Next delivery date will be July 3-7 .



LOOSE OFFERINGS

Loose Offerings for March and throughout Lent until April 9, go to One Great Hour of Sharing.

The Sunday School Children's *Noisy Buckets Offering* goes to Church World Service's **School Kits**. These kits include: scissors, notebooks, rulers, pencil sharpeners, erasers, pencils, crayons, and a bag to carry all these supplies. Please be generous in your *Noisy Buckets* offerings! It costs \$17 to supply and process **one** school kit.



GROCERY CART

The grocery cart will be in the narthex on the 1st Sunday of every month, ready for your non-perishable food items for the Lexington Food Pantry. The Lexington Food Pantry serves **many** people in need. Children of the church hand out bags on the 4th Sundays to be filled at home and brought back for the food pantry the following Sunday. Dale Sherman took 59 food items to the Food Pantry in March.

NEXT UP— SERVICE COMMITTEE GROUP B

Co-Chairs:

Karla Denker	325-1821
Jo Sherman	324-4772
Sharon Steinberger	324-2060
Carol Stock	324-7128

Ardith Bendler	324-4247	Joyce Olsen	785-8172
Marilyn Biehl	324-4426	Barb Poehler	784-3753
Rosalie Bonini	324-5190	Cindy Reutlinger	324-3250
Geraldine Bricker	324-3323	Holly Rickertsen	324-2417
Betty Clark	324-6874	Joyce Rimpley	324-4063
Billie Clements	324-2470	Ann Smets	324-1919
Deb Harkless	324-6845	Shirley Smets	324-4333
Jean Henderson	324-2236	Becca Walton (w)	324-5651
Evelyn Hutt	324-4874	Jill Williams	785-8131
Gail Magnuson	324-3746	* Gladys Hodgson	324-3146
Doll Nielsen	324-6834	* Ellie Kelly	324-2538
Andrea Nisley	324-3651		



PASTOR SEARCH PROCESS

The PNC is continuing to meet every Thursday at 7 p.m.

Progress posters were put up in the Narthex and by the Office door; the poster is also printed in this newsletter. We will continue to try to update you once a month during the church service and in the newsletter.

We are nearly done with Step 3. This may not seem like much to most of you. It does, however, represent hours of discussion, writing and rewriting of the MIF. We feel we are getting close to having a document we can turn into the Committee on Ministry for their approval.

We regret to report that Dave Margritz stepped down from serving on PNC, due to his father's accident and the changes they are dealing with right now. We pray for their family and want the church to thank Dan Roberts for stepping into the position. The PNC is now Curt Rickertsen- Chairman; Judy Biehl- Vice Chairman; Shoshana Patocka- Secretary; Tom Musil, Liz Sanderman, DaLacy Lans and Dan Roberts.

We ask for your continued support and prayers.

The Darkness and the Dawn

by Charles Swindoll

a book report by Jo Sherman

The Darkness and the Dawn tells us about the last week of the life of Jesus.

Rev. Swindoll sets the scene—it is the Last Supper, but the followers do not realize that it is the last time they will meet as a group before his death. "Jesus took a piece of unleavened bread and broke it. Then he bowed His head and prayed . . . He then said, 'Take this bread and eat it. This is My body.' What? What was He talking about? Imagine the sudden silence. Imagine the questions that swarmed through the minds of the disciples: Is He really doing to die? What will happen to us? What about the kingdom he promised?"

He then writes, "Out of obedience to the Father, Jesus took the cup of death, willing to pay the price for the sins of the world. And out of love for his followers, He gave thanks for what the cup would provide—the gift of eternal life."

He writes this about Barabbas, "Barabbas missed his cross because another man literally took his place, . . . like Barabbas, we have been set free, and it is freedom for eternity."

We know that the Old Testament is filled with prophecies about Jesus, but did you know that 332 prophecies were fulfilled in his lifetime?

He then tells us, "Outside of Christ, there is no cure for the plague of death. There is only emptiness and superstition and hopeless despair."

In Christ, through His death and resurrection, there is life with God throughout eternity."

Another thought about death is, "Death is not an escape. It's an open door that say, 'Welcome to eternity!'"

One of the last things Rev. Swindoll tells us about Heaven, "It's the place of eternal bliss, it's the place of God's presence forever. It's the place of our eternal inheritance and reward, of light and wholeness, the place without disease or pain. There are no crippling problems, no death, no tears, no darkness, and no ending. Those former things are all passed away."

Although we have heard and read about the last week of the life of Jesus many times, Rev. Swindoll has written a very interesting book which makes us realize the human part of Jesus and what he suffered for all of us.



THANK YOU!

-THE FAMILY OF ROGER BIEHL would like to thank everyone who helped us through this time of unexpected loss. Thank you to Carol Nelson and Dorothy Bremer who came to visit and brought food for all of us and for the service committee women who prepared and served the lunch and cookies. All the visits, cards, calls and food were very comforting as we navigated this unsettling time in our lives. Our church family is important to us and will continue to be as we travel on this journey we never expected. —Sincerely, Jim & Marilyn Biehl; Janice & Lynn Lans and family; Brandy & Cody Popken, Kamryn and Kinley; Amanda Christensen & Giana; Aleah, Isaac, Rachel and Tracy Biehl.

-THE WELCOMING TEAM would like to thank Swede and Betty Nelson, Tom and Rhea Musil, George and Joan Allen, Andrea Nisley, Penny and Amanda Knapp, Dan and Karen Finken and Lorin and Dorothy Bremer for volunteering to serve during the fellowship hour on Sundays for the next 3 months!!

-DEAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY—Thank you to everyone that reached out, brought things to the house, and offered hugs, support and prayers. We are so grateful for all of you and your kind words. Please continue to pray for us as we learn how to keep going without our dad. — Brandy & Cody, Amanda, Aleah, Isaac and Rachel.

-THANK YOU SO MUCH for all the nice cards and condolences sent to us at the time of La Donna's mother's death. We really appreciate your thoughts and prayers. — Allan and LaDonna McClure

-I WOULD LIKE TO THANK all of the Deacons who came to see me and all of the others who called and sent cards after the death of my brother. It really meant a lot to me. Love to all — Geraldine Bricker



Prayer Chain



FOR DWAYNE MARGRITZ

As many of you know, Dwayne Margritz has suffered 3rd degree burns over 25% of his body and is now in the burn center at **St. Elizabeth's Hospital, room 121, 550 S. 70th, Lincoln NE 68510**.

His family has started a paper prayer chain. There are slips of paper (links) at the church, on the table by the office, to be signed with your name. Dwayne's family will then pick them up from the church and put them together to form a large paper prayer chain for his room at the hospital, since he cannot have any flowers in the burn unit.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to sign a prayer link, please stop by the church and pick up as many prayer links as you would like, sign them, and return them to the church and the family will pick them up.

Please keep Dwayne and his family in your prayers.



Notes From the February 28, 2017 Session Meeting

Communion: February 5, 2017-----75

Births: None

Deaths: Cal Stock, husband of Carol Stock, died on January 9, 2017. Funeral services were held January 30, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Nebraska. The Rev. Polly K. Deppen-Williams officiated.

Roger James Biehl, died February 6, 2017 at Lexington, Nebraska. Funeral services were held February 10, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Nebraska. The Rev. Polly K. Deppen-Williams officiated.

Roger Booth, husband of Sharon Booth, died February 7, 2017. Funeral services were held February 10, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Nebraska. The Rev. Polly K. Deppen-Williams officiated.

Nancy Loose, died February 19, 2017. Funeral services were held February 25, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Nebraska. The Rev. Polly K. Deppen-Williams officiated.

Transfer of Membership: Wilber (Bill) Benjamin has requested a transfer of membership to Callaway Lutheran Church, Callaway, Nebraska. Session approved the transfer.

Current Membership: 278

Current balances are:

Balance brought forward 01/01/17	8,800.86
Receipts	26,827.10
Disbursements	25,969.95
Transfers to general fund	0.00
Transfers to money market	0.00
Balance as of 02/23/17	9,658.01
Balance of money market fund 02/23/17 \$	50,654.42

Committee Recommendations:

Faith Team:

Maundy Thursday Service be held April, 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. and that communion be served during the service.

Vacation Bible School be held at our church May 30-June 2, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Giving Team: Approve Loose Offering designations for 2017 as follows:

- January---Food Pantry,
- February---Local Benevolence,
- March 1 through April 9 (Lent)---One Great Hour of Sharing,
- April 16-May 28---Pentecost Offering,
- June---VBS, July---Backpack Program,
- July — To be determined
- August---L2 for Kids, September---Peacemaking Offering,
- October---TBD,
- November---CWS Blanket Sunday,
- December---Christmas Joy Offering

Session approved all of the recommendations.

NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU to Marge Allison, Jo Sherman and Presbyterian Women for their contribution of books for the library.

BIOGRAPHY

End Of Your Life, The by Will Schwalbe

CHILDREN

Child's Book of Prayers, A by Pamela Kennedy & Katherine Wilson

Good Night, Sleep Tight by Claire Freedman

Nobody Here But Me by Judith Viorst

My Easter Basket by Mary Manz Simon

FICTION

Holiday Yarn, A by Sally Goldenbaum

Kansas by Tracie Peterson

Thursdays At Eight by Debbie Macomber

Saving Amelie by Cathy Gohlke

Prayers For Sale by Sandra Dallas

Blue Columbine by Jennifer Rodewald

Secret Daughter, The by Kelly Rimmer

All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

God Set A Watchman by Harper Lee

FINANCES

Every Gift Matters by Carrie Morgridge

HISTORY

Wright Brothers, The by David McCullough

BIOGRAPHY

Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Keckly by Jennifer Fleischner. Born into slavery, Elizabeth Keckly was Mary Lincoln's dressmaker, confidante, and mainstay during the years the Lincolns occupied the White House. This book reads like a novel and captures the mesmerizing, intimate aspect of Civil War history and sheds light on the Lincoln White House.

LARGE PRINT

Photograph, The by Beverly Lewis. An Amish romance.



April 2017

Monthly Planner



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 20%;"> <p>*Wednesday April 5 LOGOS K-5 - 4:30 pm LOGOS 6-12 - 6:00 pm</p> </div> <div style="width: 20%; background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Mar 2017</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="width: 20%; background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">May 2017</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>						S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				1
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<p>Fifth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>9:00 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/Communion 11:00 AM Coffee 2:00 PM Worship at Plum Creek 3:00 p.m. Worship at Brookdale</p>	<p>10:00 AM Office Staff Meeting</p>	<p>11:30 AM Knitting 5:30 PM Endowment/Gifts Team 6:15 PM Faith Team</p>	<p><i>* See box above</i> 9:00 AM Southside Bible Study 6:45 PM Joy Ringers practice 8:00 PM Cantata Choir 8:30 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9:30 AM P.W. Sewing Day 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch First United Methodist Church 7:00 PM PNC Meeting</p>																																																																																						
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