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First Presbyterian Church
1319 Junction Avenue
Sturgis, SD 57785-1910



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«City», «State» «Zip»



The Good News Letter

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<p>3rd Sunday in Lent 7</p> <p>10:30AM Worship</p> <p>Sunday School via Facebook & website</p> <p>Parish 2</p>	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																					
	<p>Pastor Paul</p> <p>5:00PM Welcoming</p> <p>6:00PM Finance, Personnel & Stewardship</p>	<p>Will be at</p>	<p>Study Leave</p> <p>4:45PM Chapel Bells</p> <p>5:15PM Youth Group on Zoom</p>	<p>March 8th</p>	<p>Through</p>	<p>March 14th</p>																																																																																					
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The Good News Letter



A sixth grader went to her mother with a homework question: “What’s the difference between “potential” and “actual”? Mom thought for a moment, and then responded: “Go ask your dad, your brother and your sister what they would do if they found a million dollars, and no one knew about it. Would they turn it in, or would they keep it?”

The girl goes to her older brother with the question. “Are you kidding?” he said. “That would pay for college and set me up in business. It’s probably drug money anyway. Of course, I’d keep it.”

The sixth grader wrote down his answer, and then went to her older sister with the same question. “Of course, I’d keep it, silly. It’s probably a bribe or payoff that got lost anyway. I’d shop ‘till I dropped, and then bank the rest. I’d be set for life.”

The sixth grader wrote down her answer, and then went to talk with her dad. “Well, anybody who loses a million dollars can probably afford it. I’d do over the house, put you kids through school, and then have something left for my retirement.”

The girl then returned to her mom with the responses. Her mom responded, “Now do you see the difference between ‘potential’ and ‘actual’? *Potentially*, we are an honest family, but *actually*, you and I live with three conniving thieves.”

During this Lenten season we are called first of all to realize who we really are. We are to break out of our denial, and understand fully how far our “actual” is from our “potential.” Our “potential” is to become saints, but only by the grace and power of God. The path we take to become saints is through the doors of repentance and reconciliation.

The Greek word for repentance is *metanoia*. It literally means “to change one’s mind” and happens when people are converted from one way of thinking to another way of thinking. It is the realignment of one’s whole life toward God’s purposes. *To repent* represents a complete changing of one’s life, a turning towards God. In the words of the Apostle Paul, “See, everything has become new!” (2 Cor. 5:17)

In the Book of Acts, Cornelius is the first Gentile convert to Christianity. Peter’s preaching converts Cornelius and his household. Peter goes to Jerusalem and tells the church leaders what has happened and they respond, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.” (Acts 11:18)

We are called to repent. We must first break out of our denial, and then adopt a new way of thinking and living. Suppose, for example, we meet someone and get a bad impression of them. We place them in a category of being ignorant, or a trouble-maker, or as immoral, or as boring and not worthy of your time. Then by the grace of God we get to know them better. We go through an experience where you help them get through a tough time or they help you. You change your thinking about that person. You see them as having similar desires and needs and wants as yourself. You don’t have to become best friends, but you see them anew as a unique person. You now behave differently. This same process can happen with groups of people.

That is just one example of repentance. Repentance is what we are to be about during Lent. God bless you during Lent as we move toward the celebration at Easter!

Pastor Paul



Our Sunday Worship Schedule and Live Streaming Worship Services

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship Service (Masks are required and seating is spaced to meet CDC recommendations of 6' social distancing. Children's Christian Education ~ Lessons are on Facebook and the Church's website.

March 7 ~ **3rd Sunday in Lent**, Worship with Communion

March 14 ~ **4th Sunday in Lent**, Daylight Savings Time ~ Spring Forward

March 21 ~ **5th Sunday in Lent**,

March 28 ~ **Palm/Passion Sunday**

Holy week begins March 28th with Palm/Passion Sunday, Holy Monday, March 29th, Holy Tuesday, March 30th, and Holy Wednesday, March 31st.

You may also join us on Facebook Live Sunday mornings by going to <https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianSturgis>. The service will also be viewed on our website, www.fpcsturgissd.com, a short time after 11:30 a.m.

If you would like to receive a written copy of the sermon, please let the church know at 605-347-2395 and you will be added to the mailing list.

Session will meet on the Third Monday of March

Due to the Easter season Session will meet on March 15th at its usual time and place. We invite all Session members to arrive at 6:30 to review the materials if you have not done so prior to the beginning of our meeting at 7:00 p.m.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing – providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support for the poor and oppressed.

Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent.

Please turn in your offering **on or before Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28th**! Envelopes are available in the church office or sanctuary.





Easter Lilies forms will be out starting March 14th until March 31st.



Daylight Savings Time Begins on March 14th, Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one (1) Hour on Saturday, March 13th.



We extend our Christian love and sympathy to: Guyla and Katie and their family on the death of Mit Ness, on February 11, 2021. Funeral was held at First Presbyterian Church on February 17, 2021.

We are thankful that the Presbyterian Women (PW) has resumed meeting monthly in the



Lee James Parlor. Mask and social distancing guidelines are followed during the meeting. The Study Guide for 2021 is "Women of the Old Testament". Brenda Schaffer will lead us through the monthly lessons with her creative style. The books are available in the church office; a donation of \$8 per book is welcome. The next meeting will be held March 4 at 1:30 PM in the Lee James Parlor. The Study will be "Sarah and Hagar Waiting for God to Act", Genesis 16:

18: 1-15. We hope to see you there!





Dear Church Family,

Thank you to the anonymous donor for their generous gift towards my MBA program. It will go to good use!

I would also like to thank the Finance committee for the \$1,000 scholarship for my education. Your Support is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,
Drew Gertsch

First Presbyterian Youth Group,

Wow! Talk about bringing back "OLD" memories of when I was in the same youth group.

Thank s so much for the love and time spent decorating the pen and pencils , which I'm using, and the cute Valentines, which I am enjoying on my frig. Brings a smile each time I see them.

It was so freezing cold as you sang "You Are My Sunshine."

I know it's Covid but I wanted to go out and give all of you a big hug and invited you into my warm home for hot cocoa!

Thank you again for thinking of me! So appreciated!

With Love,
Karen Kuiken

Dear Church Family & Session

Thank you for the \$25 gift card to Lynn's for Christmas & the \$15 gift card to Lynn's for Valentines Day. This means a lot to myself & my family. I am happy to Finally be back with you.

Loves always
Morgan & Family

Finding a spiritual practice that enlivens your soul

from Presbyterians Today February 20, 2021 by *Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri*

I've been on an intentional spiritual formation journey for most of my adult life. As a young person, I struggled to find a prayer routine that felt right for me — body and spirit. I followed the more traditional ways to nurture spirituality: worship services, prayer groups and Bible studies. I even tried to establish a personal devotion routine. For guidance, I looked into the practices of the most spiritual people I knew — my grandmother, Jovina, and my grandfather, Edgar. My grandparents' prayer routine included reading the Bible following a book of devotions and kneeling beside their bed to pray silently. I was convinced that, with some modifications, this would work for me. It did not. My attempt to follow this routine ended up with knee pain, wandering thoughts, climbing into bed and falling asleep, prayer unfinished. I woke the next day feeling frustrated with “my lack of commitment” to a life of prayer.

I continued, though, pursuing some version of this model in the following years, still feeling that something was missing. Years later, I realized the spiritual practices that fit the needs of my grandparents would not necessarily fit my “very Vilmarie” ones.

In the early 2000s, I attended a denominational conference for Committees on Preparation for Ministry. There, I heard the term “spiritual disciplines” for the first time. We participated in different spiritual practices specifically in the context of vocational discernment. Engaging in *lectio divina* — where you take a Scripture passage and read and reflect on it several times — and walking the labyrinth for the first time was eye-opening. An awareness of spiritual possibilities awoke.

I firmly believe that when one seeks to cultivate a deeper, closer relationship with God, the Holy Spirit will make way, bringing forth opportunities to continue this exploration. I had

such an experience while attending a CREDO conference, when I heard these words by Dom John Chapman: “Pray as you can, not as you can't.” I realized then that an effective spiritual routine had to resonate with who I am. Such a routine is based on personality, ways of learning and processing information, and when/how a person might feel most connected to God, self and others. Brian C. Taylor said it best: “Engage in practices that enliven you, not the ones you think you should do.” (continues on next page)



Finding a spiritual practice that enlivens your soul (cont.)

I also learned that this journey was best traveled with the guidance of a trained spiritual director. I am grateful for the presence of the Rev. Diane Shoaf in my life. Together we have worked on exploring practices that deepen, broaden and strengthen my relationship with God. These days I feel closer to God through art and movement, and my preferred spiritual practice is called “Praying in Color,” a practice developed by Sybil MacBeth that involves praying while doodling and coloring. While sitting still, quietly reading the Bible and praying would be fine at times, the spirit of this extreme extrovert, music and color enthusiast needed to explore other areas and develop an inventory of spiritual practices that responded to particular spiritual needs.



John Calvin said, “Prayer itself is properly an effusion and manifestation of internal feeling before [God] who is the searcher of hearts.” May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us as we find those spiritual practices that evoke a wholehearted expression of faith, without restraint, before the presence of God.

Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri is an educator and a Presbyterian ruling elder. A member of First Spanish Presbyterian Church in Miami, she has most recently served as co-moderator of the 223rd General Assembly (2018).

Put into Practice

- Don’t force practices that don’t feel right for you.
- There are many spiritual practices to make your own. Like Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri, you might find spiritual wellness at the other side of a colored pencil.

Seek the guidance of a certified spiritual director to explore a routine that responds to your needs. Consult your mid council leaders or Spiritual Directors International at sdi-world.org for a certified spiritual director in your area.

Be mindful that preferences and needs are bound to change throughout your life.

EASTER PREPARATION DEVOTIONS

My biblegateway.com search shows 148 Bible verses containing the word "prepare". Repeatedly, God's people are commanded to prepare, especially for Him and His work. In Matthew 3:3, John the Baptist is recognized as fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy as the one preparing the way for Jesus. Lent and Ash Wednesday help us prepare for Jesus's death and His glorious resurrection, our eternal salvation. This year, I'm hoping to prepare my thoughts and my heart more completely for the most significant event in the history of man. I hope you will join me. Blessings, Trish

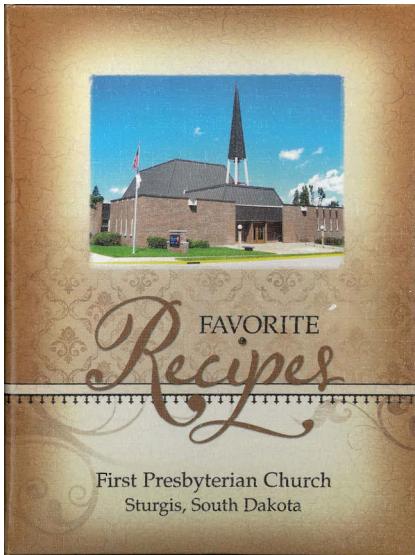
Day 1 John 3: 16-17
Day 2 John 1: 1-5
Day 3 Isaiah 9: 6-7
Day 4 Leviticus 16: 15-17, 30
Day 5 Romans 3: 25-26
Day 6 I Timothy 2: 3-6
Day 7 Isaiah 53: 2-6
Day 8 Hebrews 2: 17
Day 9 Acts 5: 30-32
Day 10 Acts 2: 22-24
Day 11 Romans 1: 16-17
Day 12 Romans 6: 8-10
Day 13 Hebrews 9: 11-14
Day 14 Hebrews 9: 15
Day 15 Hebrews 9: 22-26

Day 16 Ephesians 2: 13
Day 17 I John 1: 7
Day 18 Romans 5: 8-10
Day 19 2 Corinthians 13: 4
Day 20 Titus 2: 11-14
Day 21 John 17: 1-5
Day 22 Matthew 16:21
Day 23 Matthew 26: 1-2
Day 24 Matthew 26: 26-28
Day 25 Matthew 26: 62-64
Day 26 Luke 22: 41-44
Day 27 Matthew 27: 33-37
Day 28 Luke 23: 44-46
Day 29 Matthew 28: 5-10
Day 30 Luke 24: 45-47
Day 31 Ephesians 2: 1-9
Day 31 John 3:16

(Substitute "me" for the words "the world" and throughout.)



The Welcoming Committee is selling these beautiful cookbooks for only \$10.00 per book. They are filled with favorite recipes from members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. They would make the perfect Mother's Day present for that special Lady in your life.



You can pick them up after church services or stop by the office during regular business hours and pick one up from our secretary.

They are dedicated to the hard-working individuals who had the foresight to establish a Presbyterian Church in Sturgis, Dakota Territory in 1886.

In honor and respect for all past, present, and future pastors and members of First Presbyterian Church who have worked and will continue to work, to keep the church a moving force to serve God, community and country.

Something special happens when friends gather at a table to share a meal and fellowship with one another. We hope that this collection of favorite recipes will bless all who use them.

Thank you to all that provided recipes and made this cookbook possible.

From the Alliance of Churches

Matthew 6:3 discusses how one should give to **charity**. Alms is described as: given freely to relieve the poor distributing alms to the **needy**. Charity + Needy = Helping those in the community who are in need thru charity. Therefore, by donating to your church through the **Alms Mission**, your dollars will go generously to the Sturgis Alliance of Churches.

During the year of 2020 the Alliance had nearly 500 requests for help. The dollars spent on these requests went to help families in the community with housing, groceries, gas, medicine and utilities. It was a hard year for many. The Alliance missed two fund raisers due to the COVID. This year for our "social distancing fund raiser" we are asking parishioners to give generously thru the Alms Mission to their church to help the Alliance.

Please make any checks out to Alliance of Churches with remitter being Alms Giving and drop off at your church or mail to Alliance of Churches, PO Box 713, Sturgis.

Acts 20:35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Thank you in advance from the Sturgis Alliance of Churches.

Minute for Mission

Meals on Wheels

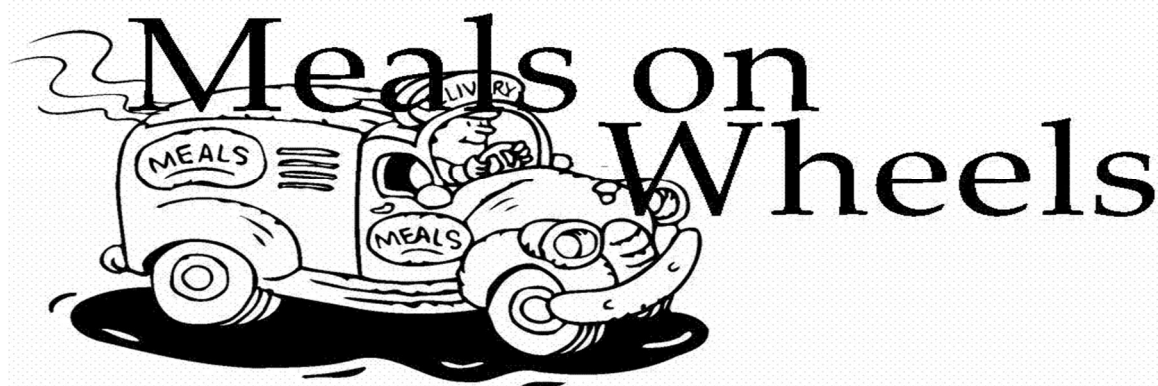
Meals on Wheels Western South Dakota is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote the well being of senior citizens. It is supported through the Federal Older Americans Act, participant donations, the state of South Dakota and local fundraising efforts.

The Sturgis area Meals on Wheels program is based in the Heritage Acres kitchen. Jamie Helms is the Sturgis Site Manager of the program with a total staff of 5 (2 fulltime and 3 part-time). Hot breakfast and lunch is provided Monday through Friday in Sturgis, with frozen meals for the weekend and holidays. Service is available to Whitewood with 1 hot meal/6 frozen meals provided on a weekly basis.

Anyone who is over 60 years of age and/or lives in the High Rise or at Heritage Acres is eligible for meals. Meals are provided at a free will donation basis. Currently approximately 130 people receive approximately 200 meals daily. Breakfast and lunch menus are distributed to each senior monthly as well as published in the Hillsview Highrise and Senior Center newsletter.

Volunteer drivers to deliver the meals are key to the Meals on Wheels program. A valid driver's license and a willingness to serve are the requirements to serve. The people delivering the meals wear masks, utilize hand gel, and provide contact free delivery.

If you are aware of someone who would enjoy receiving the meals or are interested in assisting in the delivering of the meals, please contact Jamie Helms at 605-347-1740. We have several members of our church who deliver and you can join them! You can also follow the program on Facebook: www.facebook.com/sturgismow.



Update on continued support of the Kiwanis Food Pantry, Sturgis SD

Thank you for the continued support you have provided throughout the years. The generosity of First Presbyterian Church with the donation of food and money continues to touch many people in the Sturgis area.

Total 2018	3164 pounds
Total 2019	2371 pounds
Total 2020	818 pounds
January 2021	108 pounds

The Food Pantry is open from 9:00 AM to 11:45 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (excluding major holidays). Volunteers are the foundation of this service.

This project is sponsored by The Board of Deacons. Each Sunday a “Food of the Week” will be listed in the bulletin. Members of the congregation are encouraged to bring 1 (or more) of the featured items to church on Sunday. The items will then be transported to the Food Pantry for distribution.

Please also continue to save Lynn’s Dakota Mart receipts; the money received through this program is utilized for purchase of regularly stocked products at the Food Pantry. For each \$10,000 in receipts the Food Bank receives \$100.

March’s suggested items:

March 7	Breakfast
March 14	Casserole Ingredients
March 21	Fruit/Fruit Cups
March 28	Easter Dinner

Please feel free to contact me at 605-490-3078 or betty.nettleton@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you for your continued support!
Betty Nettleton

Kindergarten Screening/Enrollment

Like to enroll your child for the 2021-22 school year, meet the Kindergarten & Speech teachers, see a classroom, set up your child’s account with Food Service, and make arrangements



for the bus with Harlow’s Bus Company. If your child will be 5 as of September 1, 2021, call Sturgis Elementary at 605-347-2386 between 8:00am to 3:45pm to schedule a time for Kindergarten Screening/Enrollment. The scheduled dates are Tuesday, April 6th from 11:00am to 6:30pm and Wednesday, April 7th from 7:00am to 2:30pm

*** Please bring a copy of your child’s birth certificate and immunization records***

Birthday

03/01 ~ Elizabeth (Nettleton) McGurk

03/02 ~ Joyce Ehlers

03/02 ~ Nadine Lippert

03/03 ~ Jenny Trigg

03/04 ~ Becky Peterson

03/05 ~ Sandi Sigman

03/07 ~ Randy Ehlers

03/09 ~ Peggy Brengle

03/10 ~ Katie Price

03/12 ~ Sawyer Pickett

03/13 ~ Morgan Pickett

03/15 ~ James Forbes

03/21 ~ Dale Adams

03/22 ~ Carolyn Woods

03/25 ~ Ben Lewis

03/26 ~ Susan Simle

03/26 ~ Chuck Lewis

03/29 ~ Bob Looby

03/31 ~ Jon Millar

Anniversary

03/03 ~ Bill & Barb Termas

Underground Squad

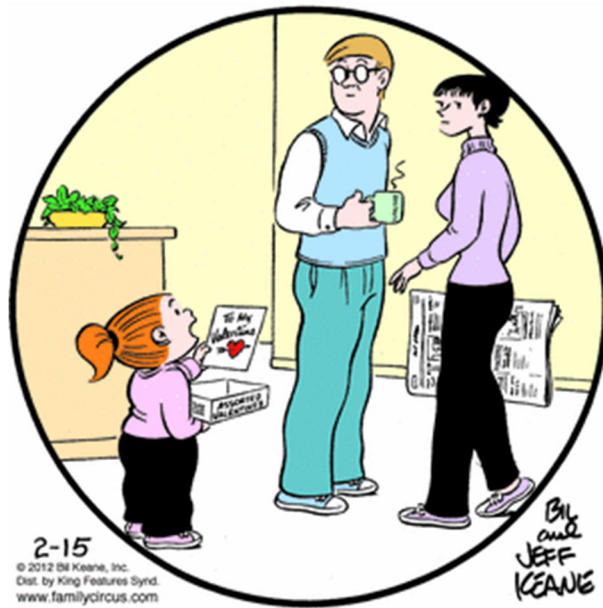
On Wednesday, February 10th, the Underground Squad surprised a few of our church members and friends with a singing Valentines by singing "You Are My Sunshine".



Underground Squad

During the month of March *The Underground Squad* will meet at 5:15 p.m. by Zoom on March 3rd, March 10th, March 17th, March 24th and March 31st. Please encourage all of the youth to come and partake of this fun and uplifting activity.





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"I have one left over. Which of you still wants to be my valentine?"



Church office hours are Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pastor Paul will be in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please feel free to give Pastor Paul or Carla a call with any questions or concerns at 605-347-2395. If you need to reach Pastor Paul or Carla after hours you can call either one of them on their cell: Pastor Paul at 701-535-0610 or Carla at 605-423-6034.

Pastor Paul will be at study leave March 8th through March 14th.

If you would like to include a favorite recipe, photos of your vacations, holidays with your family and friends, birthday parties, jokes or anything you would want to share with your church family and friends please send them into the Church Office either by mail or email: presbych@rushmore.com.