

The Good News Letter

Most expectant mothers and new parents collect memories of their child's first years in one of those *Our Baby's First* _____ books. In this book is recorded the date of their baby's first smile, their first steps, or their first words. But Sue Diaz, writing in *Child Magazine*, believes that there should also be another book: *The Book of Lasts*. This book would keep track of the moments we don't think of as precious until they're gone. For example, Diaz remembers the morning her daughter, Anne, crawled into bed with her and her husband. She writes, "A short time later, I woke up wedged between my husband and Anne's excess of elbows. I got out of bed, slid my arms beneath Anne and tried to lift her. No go. The little girl I used to bounce in my arms was gone. On a day I don't remember, I had carried Anne for the last time. When I set her down, I didn't know it would be forever."

I must admit that I am anticipating the experience of a lot of "lasts." My last sermon to you will be delivered in a few weeks. My last time planning a worship service for you and the last time we will celebrate Holy Communion together is right around the corner. When I give up my keys to my office and the church, it will be the last time I enter the building as your pastor. We will soon deliver communion to the homebound for the last time. I will soon have my last Session meeting as well as my last Board of Deacons meeting. It is all a part of the process, although for me, it also involves the end of a career begun almost 36 years ago.

This is all a part of the process of grieving the loss of our relationship. In the grief process we experience all kinds of emotions—shock, pain, anger, sadness, and eventually acceptance. I've seen some of these in you, and I am experiencing them as well. Although Susan and I are staying in the area, after March 31st I cannot do any pastoral duties nor come to worship at the church until well after you call a new pastor. I cannot call any of you, although you can call me. These are guidelines given by the presbytery and they are necessary so that you will bond in a healthy way with your next pastor. Susan is not under these restrictions.

I will miss all of you although I look forward to retiring. People have asked me what I will do, and that remains to be seen. I will rest, do work around the house, rest some more, play golf as soon as my knee is ready, sleep late, and enjoy my time with Susan, Benjamin and other friends, colleagues and relatives. The rest of it is unplanned for now. God has blessed me richly for having been with you, and I am sure God will continue to bless. We will worship together for the last time on Easter, and we will place our hope in God, who brings us the good news of the resurrection. All thanks be to God.



God's peace be with you,

Paul

Pastor Paul



Church & Community

Our Sunday Worship Schedule and Live Streaming Services

9:00-9:50 (children & adult)

10:00 a.m. ~ Worship Service

11:00 a.m. ~ Fellowship

March 3rd ~ Worship/Holy Communion ~ **Choir Sings**
3rd Sunday in Lent

March 10th ~ Worship ~ 3rd Sunday in Lent

March 17th ~ Worship ~ 4th Sunday in Lent

March 24th ~ Worship ~ Palm/Passion Sunday

March 31st ~ Worship ~ Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday
Holy Communion/Bells will play

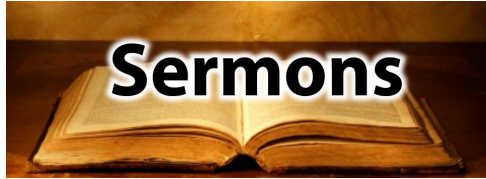


We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper on March 3rd. If you are an ordained Elder or Deacon, you can serve communion. If you are interested in serving, please sign up. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or call the church office at 605-347-2395.



Church office hours are Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please feel free to give the church office a call with any questions or concerns at 605-347-2395. If you need to reach us after hours you can call either Pastor Paul at 701-535-0610 or Carla at 605-423-6034.

Church & Community



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.

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.



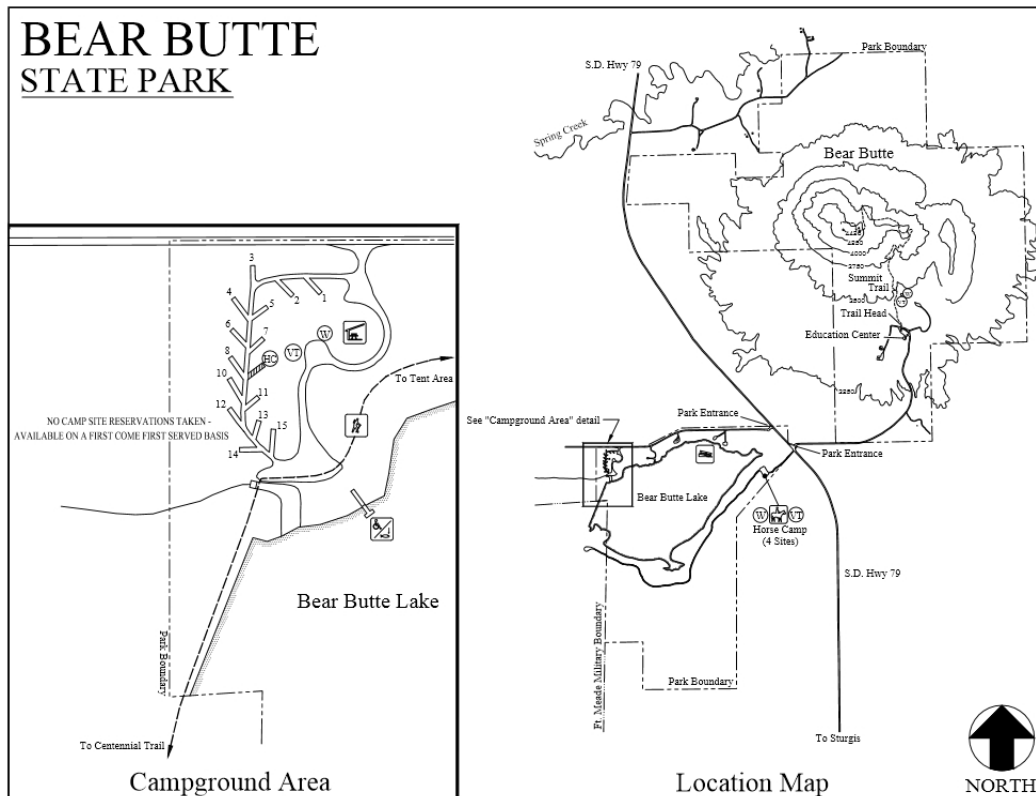
**CHURCH
MEETING**

- March 3rd ~ PNC Congregation Roundtable
- March 4th ~ 5:00pm ~ Worship
- March 4th ~ 6:00pm ~ Mission on Zoom
- March 5th ~ 6:15 pm ~ Deacons
- March 8th ~ 12:00 p.m. ~ Alliance of Churches @ Love, Inc. house
- March 7th ~ 1:30pm ~ PW Circle
- March 7th ~ 5:30 pm ~ Christian Education
- March 11th ~ 5:30pm ~ PNC
- March 11th ~ 6:00pm ~ Finance, Personnel & Stewardship
- March 12th ~ 5:00 p.m. ~ Welcoming
- March 19th ~ 6:00pm ~ Building & Grounds
- March 19th ~ 7:00pm ~ Session Meeting



You are invited!
 Sunrise Service
 Sunday, April 9th
 6:00 a.m.
 (technically at sunrise!)
**Bear Butte
 Lake Shelter**
 sponsored by
 Sturgis Alliance of Churches

From Sturgis, go east on Highway 34, north on Highway 79. At the second road by Bear Butte Lake turn to the left (west) and travel on a gravel road. There is a rock faced entry into the Campground.



In case of inclement weather, we will meet at the shelter at the Lion's Park whomever can gather will worship our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Church & Community

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.

March's suggested items:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Total 2018 | 3164 pounds |
| Total 2019 | 2371 pounds |
| Total 2020 | 818 pounds |
| Total 2021 | 1227 pounds |
| Total 2022 | 876 pounds |
| Total 2023 | 937 pounds |
| January 2024 | 81 pounds |

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| March 3 | Breakfast |
| March 10 | Rice/Rice-a-Roni |
| March 17 | Fruit/Fruit Cups |
| March 24 | Easter Dinner |
| March 31 | Condiments |

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.

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

The Annual Alliance of Churches Baked Potato Fund Raiser

Will be held on Monday, March 25th, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Sturgis Community Center. Menu includes baked potatoes, toppings, and salad, coffee, cold drinks and conversation.

A free-will offering will be collected to help those in need.



Church & Community



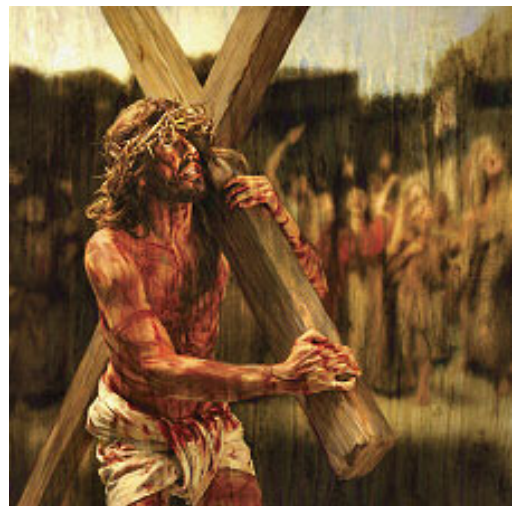
Presbyterian Women met Feb. 1, 2024 for a short business meeting followed by a robust Bible Study discussion with a delicious cheesecake served by Brenda.

Business included bylaws revision, Matthew 25 Pill Bottle Recycling program-we appreciate your contributions, clean-up day tasks, and our menu and volunteers for the next Northern Hills Connection Luncheon.

Presbyterian Women will meet March 7, 2024 @ 1:00pm in the Parlor. Bible Study will be Chapter 2 "Made in God" in our Women & Identity Book. Extra books are available, and if you don't have one, just show up for fellowship, fun, delicious dessert, and learning some great lessons for everyday living! Cathie Anderson is our hostess.

Good Friday

We remember the day Jesus was crucified with the **noon Crosswalk** that begins at our church. We will walk to various churches, carrying a cross and hearing from pastors about the meaning of this day. Meet to begin in our church narthex (lobby).



Easter: The Celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Sunday is the day we most celebrate the rising from the dead of Jesus Christ. Every Sunday is a day to celebrate the resurrection, but Easter marks the day that Jesus rose from the grave. His rising serves to give all humanity hope that all the things Jesus taught and showed us were true. It also gave the world hope that death does not have the final say, so we need not fear—especially as we seek to do God’s will and reveal God’s realm in our midst today.

The week before Easter is known as **Holy Week**. We use this time to prepare for Easter Sunday. Here are scriptures you could read for each day:

Monday—John 12:1-11, Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 36:5-11.

Tuesday—John 12:20-36, Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 71:1-14.

Wednesday—John 13:21-32, Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70.

Maundy Thursday—John 13:1-17, 31b-35, Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19.

Good Friday—John 18:1-19:42, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22.

Saturday—Mark 16:1-8, Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 98.

When we prepare, then we are better able to behold the glory of the risen Lord on Easter. Gather together that morning at worship when we will sing hymns, hear beautiful music, celebrate with Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, and most of all, rejoice!

“In the Garden”

A favorite Easter hymn is “In the Garden,” and it has been called one of the most popular gospel hymns ever along with “The Old Rugged Cross.” The hymn and music were written by C. Austin Miles in 1912. Miles gives this account of how the words were written:

“One day in March, 1912, I was seated in the dark room, where I kept my photographic equipment and organ. I drew my Bible toward me: it opened at my favorite chapter, John 20—whether by chance or inspiration let the reader decide. That meeting of Jesus and Mary had lost none of its power to charm.

“As I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene. I became a silent witness to that dramatic moment in Mary’s life, when she knelt before her Lord, and cried, ‘Rabboni!’

“My hands were resting on the Bible while I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. A woman in white, with head bowed, hand clasping her throat, as if to choke back her sobs, walked slowly into the shadows. It was Mary. As she came to the tomb, upon which she placed her hand, she bent over to look in, and hurried away.



“John, in flowing robe, appeared, looking at the tomb; then came Peter, who entered the tomb, followed slowly by John.

“As they departed, Mary reappeared; leaning her head upon her arm at the tomb, she wept. Turning herself, she saw Jesus standing, so did I. I knew it was He. She knelt before Him, with arms outstretched and looking into His face cried ‘Rabboni!’

“I awakened in full light, gripping the Bible, with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision I wrote as quickly as the words could be formed the poem exactly as it has since appeared. That same evening I wrote the music.” *(101 Hymn Stories,*

K.W. Osbeck, p.124)

Some Symbols of Easter



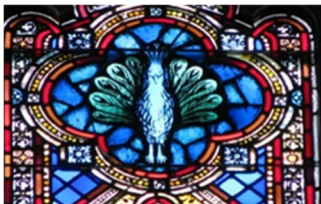
The white Christ Candle—Lit for Easter and for all the worship services of the season of Easter.



The open tomb—Reminds us that the holy love of God and Christ conquers death.



The cross over the globe—Signifies the victory of the cross over all the world.



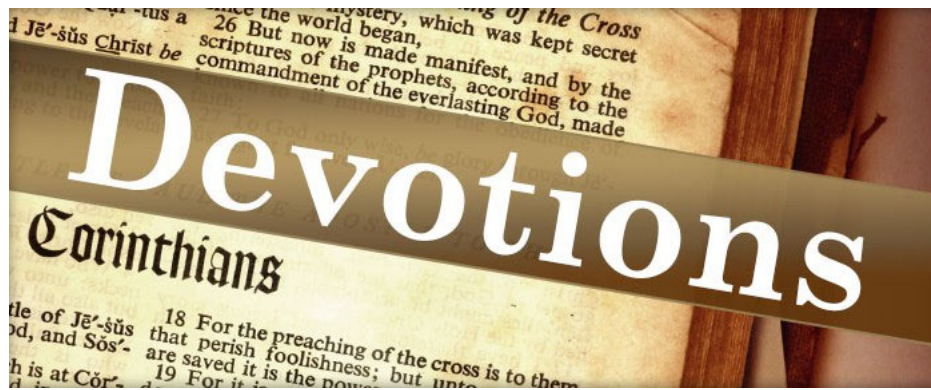
The peacock—The molting peacock grows new feathers still more brilliant than the ones that were lost.



The Phoenix—This legendary bird dies in flames and rises out of the ashes to new life.



The Butterfly—The caterpillar wraps itself in a cocoon and then bursts forth into new life and begins to fly with new wings.



March 2024 Daily Bible Reading Prophecies and Jesus' Death & Resurrection

Just as many Old Testament verses foretell of Jesus' birth and ministry, others prophesy of his death and resurrection. Some Bible scholars estimate that hundreds of OT passages allude to or are a precursor of Jesus. J.C. Ryle is quoted as saying that the Old Testament gospel is the bud, the New Testament is the gospel in full bloom.

The time and manner of Jesus' death and resurrection were not happenstance, but a fulfilling of God's plan from the beginning, as Jesus was from the beginning, our Passover Lamb. 1 Corinthians 13:12 says that in our Christian walk now we look through the mirror dimly and know in part. The prophets saw dimly, and Jesus perfectly fulfilled their predictions. He is the Savior and the Light!

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| Day 1 | Genesis 22:1-14 | Day 17 | Zechariah 13:7 |
| Day 2 | Exodus 29:38-43 | Day 18 | Matthew 26:31-32, 47-56 |
| Day 3 | Exodus 30:10 | Day 19 | Psalms 38:12-13 |
| Day 4 | Psalms 40:6-10 | Day 20 | Mark 15:1-5 |
| Day 5 | Hebrews 10:1-10 | Day 21 | Isaiah 50:4-7 |
| Day 6 | Hebrews 13:10-16 | Day 22 | Matthew 27:27-31 |
| Day 7 | Exodus 12:1-13 | Day 23 | Psalms 69:19-21 |
| Day 8 | 1 Peter 1:17-21 | Day 24 | Luke 23:35-38 |
| Day 9 | Malachi 3:1 | Day 25 | Psalms 22:1-5 |
| Day 10 | Isaiah 40:3-5 | Day 26 | Matthew 27:45-54 |
| Day 11 | Matthew 11:9-15 | Day 27 | Isaiah 53:1-12 |
| Day 12 | Zechariah 9:9 | Day 28 | Luke 24:1-8 |
| Day 13 | Mark 11:1-11 | Day 29 | Philippians 2:5-11 |
| Day 14 | Zechariah 11:12-13 | Day 30 | Numbers 21:9 |
| Day 15 | Luke 22:1-5 | Day 31 | John 3:14-21 |
| Day 16 | Mark 14:16-18 Matthew 27:3-8 | | |

Church & Community

Northern Hills Connection

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

12:00 Noon \$12 Inclusive

1st Presbyterian Church Fellowship Rm.

1319 Junction Ave, Sturgis

Speaker

Diane Hurst
Sundance, WY



Special Feature

Dave Utter
Rug Weaver

Music

The Amigas
Susan Rice & Peggy Howard

Reservations required by March 15. Please call: Mary
605-645-7601 or Marlene 605-580-5493. Or email
maridel.sprenger@yahoo.com

Prayer Coffee: Tuesday, March 12 @ 9:00 AM
1213 Charles St., Spearfish (All women are invited and
encouraged to bring a friend)

Affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries (Women connecting
with God, each other, and their communities)

Thank you to the church committees who have and will be helping the youth group with the Lenten suppers which are held every Wednesday which started February 14th and will go through April 28th. The schedule for the meals and the committees in charge are as follows:

February 14th ~ Welcoming

February 21st ~ Mission

February 28th ~ Worship

March 6th ~ Christian Education

March 13th ~ Buildings & Grounds

March 20 ~ Worship

March 28th ~ Youth Group




Remember to set your clocks *ahead* one hour before retiring on Saturday, March 10th. You don't want to be late for church come Sunday morning.



4-20
©2019 Bill Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

"How do Easter lilies know what date to open up their flowers?"





Join us
as we honor

REV. PAUL HENSCHEN
&
SUSAN SIMLE

with a reception to celebrate their

farewell

as pastor to the First Presbyterian
Church of Sturgis

Saturday, March 23rd 1-3 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
1319 Junction Ave.
Sturgis, SD 57785
Erskine Room
basement

Thank You

Presbyterian Deacons,

What a nice surprise! Thank you for the Valentine's card and plate of yummy Valentines cookies.

Wasted no time with a taste test!

Thank you again for your kindness!

Karen Kuiken

First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for thinking of Matthew 25: Ministries and supporting our work with those in need.

By donating clean, empty plastic pill bottles, you are helping care for those in need and helping the environment by keeping plastic out of the land-fill. Please note that as of 03/01/2023 we are requesting only clean, capped bottles that have been prepared for shipment.

Thank you for your support of this program, and thank you for caring for people in need worldwide.

Joodi Archer

Director of Programs &
Community Relations

Dear Kids,

Thank you for coming to my residence and singing to me. You sing very well and I enjoyed seeing you all

Joan Hobernicht

Thank you!

Deacons,

Thank you so much for the cookies and candy that you gave me for Valentine's Day. I appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Love,
Dorothy Morford

To the Church:

I would like to thank everyone for the nice cards I receive each month, the Christmas cookies, the Valentines from Sunday school and also the singing & pretty jar with flowers in it. It is so nice to be remembered!

Shirley Jenks

P.S. Also the people who bring me communion! Love you all!

Thank you to our church family for the outpouring of support with the arrival of our son, Cormac. The generosity, well wishes, and love that we have received are greatly appreciated!

Kelsey, Declan, and Cormac



The Annual Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Spring Fund Raiser

All-you-can-eat-Soup Supper for \$10.00. Sunday, March 24th, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Sturgis Community Center. All proceeds benefit our local youth projects.



Kiwanis

Church

On March 3rd, following the worship service, members of the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) will facilitate a roundtable discussion with the congregation. If you are unable to attend in person but would like to provide input, please prayerfully consider the questions below. It is important to us on the PNC to get your thoughts as we move forward to find the new pastor that God has chosen for us! You may return your responses to the church office or to any PNC member. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact anyone of us on the PNC: Teresa Forbes, Galen Remington, Randi Oviatt, Ray Kaitfors, Grace Hill, Betty Nettleton, or Beth Bauer.

Rank the importance of strengths in a Pastor (1 most importance and 4 least important). Select an order of your preferences 1-4.

____ Christian Education – Contributing to the spiritual growth and education of all ages in the church.

____ Worship Leader – Coordinating all aspects of the worship service to provide a meaningful worship experience.

____ Administration – Working with staff and participating in committees to effectively manage the health of the church.

____ Pastoral Care – Providing ministry to members of the congregation who are hospitalized, homebound or in need of spiritual counseling and support.

Describe the strengths of our congregation -

Describe any weaknesses -

What are some potential opportunities for our church with the selection of a Pastor?

What difficulties or challenges should we as a congregation be mindful of?

What expectations do you have for a Pastors engagement in the community?

What is your ideal length of experience for a Pastor?

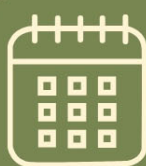
Would you consider a recent graduate of Seminary?

Would you consider a candidate closer to retirement?

What skills, gifts and training/education would you like to see in a Pastor?

Church

CONGREGATIONAL ROUNDTABLE



March 3, 2024

Following Church
(approx. 11:15 AM)

Erskine Clubroom Refreshments served

The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) invites all members and friends of the congregation to a time of discussion revolving around what YOU want to see in a new pastor. It is important to us on the PNC to get your input as we move forward to find the new pastor that God has chosen for us! Join us as we answer various questions on behalf of the entire congregation.



If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact anyone of us on the PNC: Teresa Forbes, Galen Remington, Randi Oviatt, Ray Kaitfors, Grace Hill, Betty Nettleton, or Beth Bauer



March

BIRTHDAYS

March 1

Elizabeth (Nettleton) McGurk

March 2

Joyce Ehlers

Nadine Lippert

March 4

Becky Peterson

March 5

Sandi Sigman

March 7

Randy Ehlers

March 9

Peggy Brengle

March 10

Katie Price

March 12

Sawyer Pickett

March 13

Morgan Pickett

March 21

Dales Adams

Marilyn Pruter

March 22

Carolyn Woods

March 25

Ben Lewis

March 26

Susan Simle

Chuck Lewis

March 29

Bob Looby

March 31

Jon Millar

March 9

Bill & Barb Termes



March

ANNIVERSARIES



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 9am-3pm Elder/ Deacon Training |
| 3rd Sunday in Lent 3 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship/ Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship 11:15am PNC Congrega- tional Round Table Parish 3 | 4 5:00pm Worship 6:00pm Mission | 5 9:00am Home Communion 6:15pm Deacons | 6 11:30 a.m. Men's Lunch 4:45pm Bells 5:30pm Youth Grp 6:00pm Lenten Supper ~ CE 7:00pm Choir | 7 1:00pm PW Circle 5:30pm CE Meeting | 8 12:00pm AOC @ Love, Inc. | 9  Time to Spring Ahead |
| 4th Sunday in Lent 10 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship Inquirer's Class Parish 4 Daylight Savings Time | 11 5:30pm PNC 6:00pm Finance, Personnel & Stewardship | 12 5:00pm Welcoming | 13 11:30am Men's Lunch 4:45pm Bells 5:30pm Youth Grp 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper ~ B&G 7:00 p.m. Choir | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 5th Sunday in Lent 17 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship Parish 1 | 18 | 19 12:00 p.m. Northern Hills Connection Lunch 6pm Bldg & Grds 7:00pm Stated Session  HAPPY FIRST DAY OF SPRING! | 20 11:30am Men's Lunch 4:45pm Bells 5:30pm Youth Grp 6:00pm Lenten Supper ~ Worship 7:00pm Choir | 21  NewsLetter DEADLINE | 22 | 23 1-3 p.m. Pastor Paul's Farewell Reception |
| Palm Sunday 24 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship Parish 2 5-6pm Kiwanis Soup Supper Community Center | Holy Monday 25 4:30-6:30pm AOC Potato Feed Community Center | Holy Tuesday 26 | Holy Wednesday 27 11:30am Men's Lunch 4:45pm Bells 5:30pm Youth Grp 7:00 p.m. Choir | 28 Maundy Thursday 6:00pm Lenten Supper—Youth Group | 29 Good Friday 12:00pm Cross Walk-starts at FPC (our church) | 30 |
| Resurrection of the Lord/Easter 31 6:00am Sunrise Service 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship Parish 3 |  He is Risen! | | | |  | |