

# First Things First

February 2018

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## Passion

February 2018 holds an interesting coincidence that intertwines sacred and secular traditions of passion: Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day both fall on the same day this year. The last time such an alignment happened was 1945; you can imagine the level of penitence and ardor that arose from this church at that time. With more than 12 million US forces engaged across the globe, it is likely every family had members serving in the armed forces.

Valentine's Day is thick in our culture. From our youngest schooldays into our golden years, many of us participate in the festivities by exchanging cards, candy, flowers, and songs that express eagerness for a new flame or devotion to a lifelong soulmate. When I was in high school, each Valentine's Day I bought dozens of carnations from a local florist and bestowed one on each girl I knew, letting them all know they weren't left out: they were part of the excitement too. The thrill of that simple gift and its response remain in my memory today.

This year, whether you have a day of wine and roses or one that seems like any other day, please come and gather in our sanctuary at 7:00 PM to experience a different kind of attraction. On Ash Wednesday evening, we'll begin the remembrance we draw each year during Lent, following the final steps of the son of man who loved the world in a way it did not expect—in a way some still do not expect. Jesus loved people wholly and openly, even after their missteps and compromises. Jesus taught that when one lost sheep is found, the Good Shepherd calls together his friends and rejoices. (Luke 15) Jesus knew that when you return home, God rushes to you, adorns you with the finest robe, puts a ring on your hand, and throws a party. (Luke 15) In short, God lets all of us know we are part of the excitement, even when we feel forgotten.

In the Christ who knows us and loves us anyway,  
-Andrew Byshenk, Clerk of the Session

# February Calendar

## FEBRUARY 4

- 10:00 AM **Worship**  
Communion Sunday  
Souper Bowl of Caring \*  
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**  
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**  
Oak Room
- 11:15 AM **Adult Education\***  
Oak Room

## FEBRUARY 7

- 5:30 PM **Session Meeting**  
Office
- 6:30 PM **Deacons' Meeting (Rescheduled)**  
Oak Room

## FEBRUARY 11

- 10:00 AM **Worship**  
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**  
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Sweet Valentines Fellowship\***  
Dining Room

## FEBRUARY 14

- 7:00 PM **Ash Wednesday Service\***  
Sanctuary

## FEBRUARY 15

- 8:00 AM **Men's Breakfast**  
Dady-Oh's

## FEBRUARY 18

- 10:00 AM **Worship**  
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**  
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**  
Oak Room
- 11:15 AM **Adult Education\***  
Oak Room

## FEBRUARY 25

- 10:00 AM **Worship**  
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**  
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**  
Oak Room
- 11:15 AM **Adult Education\***  
Oak Room

\*see article

## February

## Birthdays

- 2/6 Patty Dallmann  
2/10 Ian Radcliff  
2/11 Helen Pugh  
2/16 Betsy Ballmann  
2/17 Bob Pugh  
2/18 Maryeon Panton  
2/22 Sharon Pugh  
2/24 Edith Granatella  
2/28 Gladys Manke  
2/28 Maxwell Pugh



## Souper Bowl of Caring

**SAVE YOUR PENNIES...**and larger coins and bills, too, for the **Souper Bowl of Caring collection**. Your donations will go to fight hunger locally, right here in Wisconsin. The collection will be after worship on **Sunday, February 4**, (the day of that other, similar sounding event.).

## Sweet Valentine's Lunch

Do you have a delicious dessert or appetizer that you'd like to share with your fellow beaus at First Pres Waukesha? Then get cookin' for the **Sweet Valentine's luncheon** after worship on **Sunday, February 11**, in the dining room.



Your Congregational Life committee will provide chicken pot pie, salads, and drinks, but we need you to bring the hors d'oeuvres and the chocolate. If you're not up for baking or frying, just bring your appetite!

## Ash Wednesday Services

This year Lent begins on **Wednesday, February 14**. Our Ash Wednesday service "is a service for the imposition of ashes and the remembrance of baptism based on the sermon's assurance that though we are dust, we are baptized dust, and that makes all the difference." (pcusa.org).



We will have an **Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM**, led by Katie Ebel. Please consider taking part to help prepare for our Lenten journey, intentionally traveling through sin and sorrow, despair and doubt, until we reach again the joy of resurrection on Easter Sunday.

**Please note office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

## Adult Education

After taking a break on February 11 for the Sweet Valentine's luncheon, we'll continue our Adult Ed series discussing C.S. Lewis's famous book *Mere Christianity* with four more sessions, **February 18, February 25, March 4, and March 11**. Join us in the Oak Room after worship for a video program followed by a rollicking debate on the basics of what brings us to recognize the reason and reality of the Christian religion. Even if you haven't participated before, you can jump in any time!

## Loaves & Fishes

Save the date for Loaves and Fishes, **Sunday, March 25, 2018**. Watch for more information in the March newsletter and bulletins.

~Ann Stover



## One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing: Each year we participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering sponsored by the PC(USA). Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with those in need. Your generous gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Please consider contributing when the One Great Hour of Sharing is collected this Easter. More details about the offering will be made available during worship and through bulletin inserts.

## 2018 Per Capita

Per Capita for 2018 in the Presbytery of Milwaukee is \$34.00. Please consider contributing your per capita so that First Presbyterian might use your share elsewhere in the budget. Per Capita is not taken from your regular contributions because it must be designated by you for this specific use.

Please note "per capita" in the memo line. Thank you!

## Session Recap

The session met on Dec. 6, 2017 and Jan. 3, 2018.

In December, we interviewed the newly-elected Deacons and Elders, heard the report of the Deacons Mission giving, planned for Christmas services, the Christmas Tea, and the Removing of the Greenery. We recognized the repair work on the Steeple and reviewed the most recent financial reports. We ensured all staff were advised of salary adjustments and approved Christmas gifts. We adjusted our terms for a Stated Supply Pastor to attract qualified candidates. We approved Jan. 14 to Ordain & Install church officers and approved the 2018 Communion schedule. Russ Volmar agreed to supervise Property and Sara Winkelmann agreed to supervise Finance.

In January, we acknowledged collecting \$585 for the Christmas Joy Offering and confirmed our contribution to the 2018 General Mission Pledge. We thanked Jim for arranging Pulpit Supply for January (Nicole Melara) and noted the Soup Cook-Off on Jan. 14. We discussed the proper use of the Parking Lot and will write an official policy. We thanked Barb for helping change our Insurance renewal date to Nov. so it is not an issue during Christmas vacation. We reviewed the 2017 final financial reports. We adjusted the terms for a Stated Supply Pastor again to include Medical contributions. We elected Andrew Byshenk as the Clerk for 2018 and Dick Seeling as the Treasurer for 2018.

## Thank you!

The holidays are over and I want to just take a moment to thank everyone at First Presbyterian Church for taking the time to beautify the Church for the Christmas Season!

I also need to mention a couple of angels that put in extra time helping me keep things "fresh" at FPC. Ella Holberg cleaned the pew cushions and "Silent-Night" candles and holders for future use. Gladys Manke cleaned and pressed the table cloth where your nametags are found every Sunday!

From time to time I may ask for a little help from others at Church so hopefully everyone can contribute if possible.

We are a Family Church and I want to keep the Family Together!

Blessings to ALL of you in 2018!  
Bob Pugh



## College Care Packages

It's that season again! We'd like to let our five college kids (Ilisia DuMez, Heather Holberg, Erika Margis, and Monique Noska) know that we are thinking of them as the spring gets under way.

Please consider writing them a note or a card and/or making a donation of treats to be sent to them in care packages later this month. A donation basket will be set up in the Oak Room by February 4. Please leave notes and make any donations no later than **Sunday, February 25**.



So, do you think you know your trivia?

If so, join Hope Center for a night of fun and test your knowledge of history, sports, Waukesha County history and current events at the **Hope Center Trivia Bowl** fundraiser on **February 24,**

**2018.** Join us at **Thunder Bay** in Pewaukee, the competition will begin at **6:00 PM.**

You can register your team on the Hope Center website. Space is limited, the fun and games are not, so don't wait to participate!

To get you ready we have a warm-up question. "What is the word used to describe where one road split or forked into two roads?"

Register at:

<http://www.hopecenterwi.org/events.html>

Have something for the **March** newsletter? Please send it to

[presby1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:presby1@sbcglobal.net)

or drop it in Carol's mailbox by **Thursday, February 15** to have it included. Any items received after the 15th will be included in the April newsletter.

The Session

**Class of 2018**

Andrew Byshenk\*  
Barb Klemp\*

**Class of 2019**

Joan Schmidt  
Russ Volmar

**Class of 2020**

Jim Ziegler\*  
Sara Winkelmann

The Board of Deacons

Kathryn Herman, Moderator

**Class of 2018**

Susan Byshenk  
Kathryn Herman  
Bob Winchell

**Class of 2019**

Arleen Burdick  
Gladys Manke  
Sue Root

**Class of 2020**

Ella Holberg  
Jen Van Essen  
Charlotte Smith

\*indicates a second consecutive term of office