

First Things First

March 2018

Sacrifice

We are all enveloped in a profound discussion—and have been for many years now—whether we want to be or not. You’ve seen the reports on the news or read opinions in the newspapers or, perhaps most likely, been confronted by a combination of thoughtful and provocative posts in your social media. Just about every week in the U.S. there is another shooting with multiple victims of some sort of assault rifle. It is so pervasive that the Elders here at First Pres have spent time to prayerfully consider measures to reduce the likelihood of an assault in our building.

At its heart, the debate concerns the proper place of guns in our society, although the arguments branch out to issues such as greed, mental health, militias, racism, poverty, gender roles and more. The issue is so deeply contentious because it pits against each other, two attributes we all value highly: security and liberty. As with most significant human conflicts, religious views are pulled or pushed into the fight quickly, often with proponents of particular policies insisting God is on *their* side. People of goodwill aren’t wrong to seek answers in religion, but looking at the teachings and examples Christ gave delivers different answers than many first think.

So, does God support security or liberty? Well, yes and no: God intends us to live in freedom and safety, but *calls* us to **righteousness** and **sacrifice**. As we walk through this season of Lent, we will again recognize Jesus as perfectly righteous and remember how he made the greatest loving sacrifice ever when he went to the cross for us. Jesus was indeed the Lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice. Consider how you might follow Christ today. Instead of insisting on your own freedom, are you willing to sacrifice for your friend’s safety? Jesus did. Instead of demanding your own safety, are you willing to sacrifice for your neighbor’s freedom? Jesus did. Christ’s sacrifice for us was staggering; we are Christ’s faithful disciples when we willingly sacrifice for others.

“Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

In the Christ who loves us beyond measure,
-Andrew Byshenk, Clerk of the Session

March Calendar

MARCH 4

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

MARCH 6

- 3:15 PM **Presbytery Meeting***
Forest Park Presbyterian Church
New Berlin

MARCH 7

- 5:30 PM **Session Meeting**
Office

MARCH 11

- 2:00 AM **Daylight Saving Time Begins***
- 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

MARCH 14

- 6:30 PM **Deacon's Meeting**
Oak Room

MARCH 15

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

MARCH 18

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **St. Patrick's Fellowship Event***
Dining Room

MARCH 25

- 10:00 AM **Worship**
Palm Sunday
Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM **Preschool Sunday School**
Nursery
- 11:00 AM **Coffee Fellowship**
Oak Room

MARCH 29

- 7:00 PM **Maundy Thursday Service***
Sanctuary

MARCH 30

- Good Friday**
No Services at First Presbyterian
- 7:00 PM **Good Friday Service***
Southminister

MARCH 31

- Holy Saturday**
No Services at First Presbyterian
- 6:00 PM **Easter Vigil***
Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

*see article

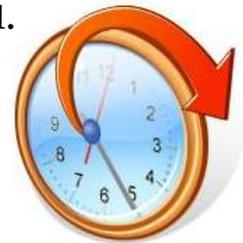
Staff Vacation:

March 1 & March 5: Carol off

Daylight Saving Time

begins Sunday, March 11.

Turn your clock ahead before you go to sleep on Saturday, March 10, so you can make it to worship!



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

March Birthdays

3/4 Vicki Sulsberger
3/5 Joan Schmidt
3/6 Beverly Franzke
3/9 Katie Ebel
3/10 Shannon Fisher
3/14 Dick Seeling
3/15 Laura Ulrich
3/17 Patrick Price
3/21 Ilisia DuMez



Adult Education

We'll continue our Adult Ed series discussing C.S. Lewis's famous book *Mere Christianity* with two more sessions, including **March 4 and March 11**. Join us in the Oak Room after worship for a video program followed by a rollicking debate considering the reason and reality of the Christian religion. Even if you haven't participated before, you can jump in any time!

March 6, 2018 Presbytery Meeting

The next meeting of the Presbytery is on **March 6, 2018 at Forest Park Presbyterian Church in New Berlin**. The theme for this meeting is Risk taking for the sake of the gospel. After working through our business, we will hear from and about people taking risks, highlighting things heard and experienced at the national NEXT Church gathering, as well as learn ways which we can take risks.

The schedule:

3:15 pm - First time orientation
4 pm - Business meeting
5 pm - Conversation about risk taking
6 pm - Dinner
7 pm - Worship

Online Registration closes on Monday, March 5, at noon. Walk in Registration begins at 3:00 PM on March 6.

Please contact the church directly, 262-786-5850, for childcare needs.

Feed My Starving Children - local food packing event

Would you like to help feed starving children? Join us on **Saturday, March 10, from 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM, in Hartland, WI**, for a food packing event. Feed My Starving Children® is a Christian non-profit committed to feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and Feed My Starving Children ships these meals to distribution partners around the world.

Please contact **Jim Ziegler by March 4** if you would like to volunteer or if you have questions. Other times on March 10 may be available. If you would like to donate money instead, that is also welcome. Come help make a difference!

Community Foot and Ankle Clinic

On **Tuesday, March 13, Community Foot and Ankle Clinic** will be at **The Caring Place at 2:30 PM** to provide toenail trimming services to their participants. The Caring Place would like to extend an invitation to church members to take advantage of these services as well. If you are in need of these services and are on Medicare, call Community Foot and Ankle Clinic in advance of the March 13 appointment date to add your name to the list and have the Medicare paperwork processed on your behalf. This service will be provided quarterly and we will continue to let you know as future dates are set. **The number for Community Foot and Ankle Clinic is 414-483-5566.**

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

presby1@sbcglobal.net

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

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Let's get our Irish on! Join your fellow parishioners in the Dining Room after worship on Sunday, March 18, for a little food and drink and a little Celtic Music and views. The church will provide Potato Soup, grilled Rueben sandwiches (with and without sauerkraut), chips, and beverages. Please bring a fitting Irish appetizer, salad, or dessert or at least one with a catchy Irish name! Sláinte!

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves and Fishes is , **Sunday, March 25, 2018.** Serving at 2:00 PM. Help is needed for set up, serving and cleanup. Baked goods and desserts appreciated. ~Lora Collins



Easter Flowers

This Easter we will have our traditional flowers available for order, as well as an option to make a gift through the Presbyterian Mission Agency's (PMA) Giving Catalog. If you're not sure what you might do with one more hyacinth, consider making a donation of a family of chickens, a bag of seeds, or a farming kit to help those in need. You'll find more details on the order form included with this newsletter.

All flower and PMA contributions can be made in honor of or in memory of a loved one and all will be noted on our Easter bulletin insert. **Orders are due in the office Sunday, March 18.**

Session Recap

The session met on February 7, 2018, noting the Annual Statistical Report was submitted and acknowledging a Thank You from the Presbytery Executive for our 2018 Mission donation. We discussed a Mobile "Feed My Starving Children" Mission event for March 10 and approved raising funds for children through HELPS International. We reviewed our Pulpit Supply and Pastoral Care for February, arranged for the Sweet Valentines fellowship, and planned for updating the register. We discussed maintenance to the building, noted the replacement of both the furnace and the water meter, and reviewed the most recent financial reports. We also discussed the next steps we are taking to secure a Stated Supply Pastor.



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 during worship and through bulletin inserts.



Holy Week

Palm / Passion Sunday (March 25): Join us as we begin the journey to the cross.

Maundy Thursday (March 29): Join us at **7:00 PM** for a Tenebrae service. The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial.

Good Friday (March 30): **Southminster Presbyterian Church** invites you to attend their **7:00 PM Good Friday Service.**

Holy Saturday (March 31): Christ the Servant Lutheran Church will be holding an Easter Vigil at **6:00 PM** (2016 Center Rd, Waukesha, WI 53189)

Easter Breakfast

Help us greet the risen Lord on Easter morning with great fellowship and good food in the dining room at **9:00 AM on Sunday, April 1, before** worship. Congregational Life will provide croissants, English muffins, butter & jam, cut fruit, yogurt and honey dip, juice, milk, coffee, and tea. You'll make our event complete by bringing along a friend and a lovely strudel, coffee cake, or breakfast casserole.

Easter Egg Hunt

Immediately after worship on Easter Sunday (April 1), kids of all ages can gather in the Oak Room before heading off for an (indoor) egg hunt in the Dining Room.

HELPS INTERNATIONAL

is a well established organization throughout the world bringing medical and other services to those in need. I traveled to Guatemala a couple years ago, to be part of a Mission effort, whose goal was to create a safer living environment for children and families by installing well ventilated stoves and water filtration systems. We also visited an elementary school, where some of the community children attended school. The kids were excited that we were there, and happy to be in school. Many others can not go to school because they can't afford it. It occurred to me that it might be fun for First Church to sponsor a child, so last week I spoke about a fund raising effort that I'm calling "Educate a Child". We'll be raising funds from now until the end of the year so that we can sponsor a child in 2019. They would be most grateful for your help. In a country where more than half the population lives below the poverty line, the barriers kids face to make it into classrooms are extremely high. Today 2 million children in Guatemala, a majority of them girls, don't attend school. Sixty percent of the indigenous population cannot read or write and most children will only receive four years of formal education. In response to the education crisis in the village of Santa Avelina, lets help these kids master the necessary skills that will help to lead them out of poverty. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and in the memo line include the words "Educate a Child". Thank you.

~ Barb Klemp, Elder for Mission.

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 designated by you for this specific use.

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

It's time to order flowers for **Easter Sunday!** (Flowers include a foil pot cover and bow.)



There is also an alternate of purchasing a gift through the Presbyterian Mission Agency if you prefer.

Please indicate your choice for the **number** of items you wish to order and indicate whether your selection is **in memory of** or **in honor of** the person you name.

Orders must be in the church office by Sunday, March 18. Payment is due at the time of the order. Please fill out your order and place it in the offering plate or mail it to (or drop off at) the church office. Thank you!



Name: _____ Phone: _____ Total: \$ _____

Hyacinth 6.5" pot Triple	\$14.00	___ # to take home	___ # for stay-at-home members	in memory / honor of _____
Tulips 6.5" pot (6 bulb)	\$14.00	___ # to take home	___ # for stay-at-home members	in memory / honor of _____
Daffodils 6.5" pot	\$14.00	___ # to take home	___ # for stay-at-home members	in memory / honor of _____
Azalea 6.5" pot	\$30.00	___ # to take home	___ # for stay-at-home members	in memory / honor of _____
Easter Lilies 6.5" pot	\$15.00	___ # to take home	___ # for stay-at-home members	in memory / honor of _____
Farming Tools	\$10.00	___ # donated		in memory / honor of _____
Family of Chickens	\$25.00	___ # donated		in memory / honor of _____
Bag of Seeds	\$30.00	___ # donated		in memory / honor of _____



Farming Tools: Growing and harvesting a fruitful crop is possible only with the proper tools, such as shovels and machetes.

Family of Chickens: A high-producing chicken can lay one egg almost every day. Gifts of chickens (3 females and 2 males) could provide a family with a continuous source of food and nourishment.

Bag of Seeds: A flourishing crop begins with a single seed. Give communities sustenance and hope - a bag of seed.