

The First Presbyterian Church PC (U.S.A.)

206 E. 20th Street P. O. Box 444

Falls City, Nebraska 68355

402-245-2650 – <http://www.fallscitypres.org>

February 2020/March 2020

Worship Time: 10:45 am

Reflections from Pastor Rick—

I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation. Do not, O LORD, withhold your mercy from me; Let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever. (Psalm 40: 10-11)

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

“New Year, new you”: this is the message we get from pop culture, year after year. We vow to make changes to our diet, exercise habits, or lifestyle, and yet, in spite of those resolutions, most things stay the same. This may be cause for disappointment, but there is some consistency we can celebrate. God’s promises to us do not change with the calendar or the latest fitness trend. Rather than focusing our energy and attention on making (and in all likelihood breaking) promises to ourselves, let us spend the first part of the new year appreciating God’s unbreakable promises.

As Christ has been called by God, we are called, as well. God not only calls us to know Christ and to serve in the ministry of his grace, God also equips (enriches) us “with speech and knowledge of every kind.” 1 Corinthians: 5

There is no situation God ever calls us to which we will not be “gifted” and “strengthened” to encounter. We must remember the biblical promise: *God is faithful.*

Thanks be to God!

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Our continuation in being a Matthew 25 Church:

As we continue our journey as a Matthew 25 Church, we will dive into the Sundays after Epiphany which are sometimes called Ordinary Time, not because they are routine or mundane, for their primary rhythm has to do with following the Sundays “in order.”

Indeed, each Sunday is a celebration of Christ’s resurrection from the dead on the first day of the week, and it is this holy mystery which animates, renews, and transforms our life of faith. These Sundays are bracketed by festivals which concern the identity of Jesus Christ: Baptism of the Lord, and Transfiguration of the Lord. According to the Gospels, at each of these events, a voice from heaven claims Jesus as God’s beloved Son. The lectionary readings for the time after Epiphany highlight the themes of Christian vocation, discipleship, and community.

Matthew’s Gospel begins with the announcement, the child born to Mary will be “Emmanuel,” God with us. And it ends with Jesus’ promise, “I am with you always, to the end of the age”. Between these bookends, Matthew shares the faith-shaping, world-changing story of Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection. The season of Christmas is a time to dwell in the wonder and mystery of Christ’s incarnation — the gift of God’s Word made flesh among us, full of grace and truth.

Concerns about systemic poverty, structural racism and congregational vitality may seem distant from the minds of many worshipers, and discordant with the festive nature of the season. However, for many children of God these are inescapable realities and ever-present struggles.

My messages and music suggestions will pick up where we left off on the fourth week of Advent: celebrating the gift of God with us in Jesus, “Emmanuel.” In comparison with the ideas provided for Advent, this span of weeks deals less directly with matters of poverty, racism and vitality; however, it seeks to establish theological foundations which are essential to a year with Matthew and critical to the church’s mission of righteousness, justice and peace.

I refer to First Presbyterian Church as a thinking congregation with warm hearts. It is my continual hope, we as siblings in Christ will carry the “Good News” in us with a passionate heart. In all things, remembering you are loved and cherished by your Lord, Jesus Christ.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Rick

Prayer List

The bulletin prayer list provides us an opportunity to remember those with special needs. Please contact Jennifer if you have a name to add and also with the good news a name can be removed.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing campaign will kick-off on March 8. These gifts are a reminder that through the simple act of sharing, we are blessed, and we experience God’s abundance in surprising ways. We will complete our campaign with a dedication on Easter Sunday, April 12. Envelopes and coin boxes for this special offering will be on the table at the back of the church.

*******COMMUNITY NEWS*******

The Humboldt Area Community Choir will begin practice on February 23rd from 6:30-8 pm at First Methodist Church, Humboldt. Ann Claymiller and Jennifer James often sing in the choir. The choir will present one or two concerts on Palm Sunday, April 5.

Community events are placed on the tables at both entrances as they become available to us. Don’t miss out—check them out!

Recommended Reading

A Month of Sundays by Eugene H. Patterson

There Is More by Brian Houston

Free to Believe by Luke Goodrich

Some Kind of Crazy by Terry Wardle

Be the Bridge by Latasha Morrison

Jesus Day by Day by Sharon Kaselonis

If you have any book(s) you have enjoyed and would recommend, please email to presbyterian@sentco.net

ATTENTION NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

All newsletter articles for the April-May newsletter will be due to the office by March 16th. If you have any information you would like printed for your group or activity to be published, please submit them in written form. Keep everyone informed by submitting an article! Thank you for marking this *important* date on your calendar!

+++++PARISH NEWS+++++



Souper Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, February 2, we will collect the Souper Bowl offering. Everyone is asked to bring items for the Food Pantry or monetary donations. Celebrate the Super Bowl by helping to overcome hunger in our community! Please use a pew envelope and mark Souper Bowl for monetary donations.

First Friday Breakfast

First Friday Breakfast will be held on February 7 and March 6 at 7 am. Speakers for our February Breakfast will be Gary Jorn and Ryan Larsen who will discuss aspects of the volunteer ambulance service and long-distance runs. The March speaker will be Valerie Buckminster discussing nursing home issues. Members should attend and also use the breakfasts as an opportunity to invite a friend or acquaintance. Our only request is for you to inform John Martin, Marlene Schwarting or Pastor Rick so we can make the appropriate adjustment for food and space.

Community Diaper Closet

The community diaper closet is in particular need of children's clothing sizes 2-6. Other donations are also welcome. Judy is grateful for the volunteers! If you could donate 2 hours on a Monday or have donations, please get in touch with Judy Crawford at 402-801-2736. Thank you!

Readers for Service

We are needing readers to read scripture during church services. You can choose your Sunday(s) and the readings will be provided to you early in the week. A volunteer list would be nice to develop and allow for more persons to be a part of the service. Contact Jennifer James if you are interested.

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women will deliver cookies to all the Falls City nursing homes in February. This is an ongoing project of the Falls City churches. Each church family is asked to have 3-4 dozen cookies to the church by Sunday, February 9. Larry and Marlene Schwarting will deliver the cookies the next day (February 10). Cookies should be packed with a dozen in each package or disposable container. They can be left in the church refrigerator or freezer. Please mark your packages with notes if your delicious cookies contain chocolate or nuts.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on January 12th. If you were unable to attend and would like a copy of the 2019 annual report, copies are available on the table at the back of the church.