



# Presbyterian

## R E P O R T E R

Volume 58, Issue 2, March 2018

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### A Note from the Pastor

#### The Desert in Bloom: Living, Dying and Rising in a Wilderness Church

I have just returned from the NEXT Church National Gathering in Baltimore and once again, I am reminded how thankful I am to you, the congregation, for giving me the opportunity to attend gatherings like this. It was phenomenal -- from worship and keynotes to workshops and conversations with colleagues and friends, old and new.

My time there helped affirm and encourage my Lenten discipline of reaching out to people with whom I disagree, especially about what it means to be church in 21<sup>st</sup> century Cumberland. It also strengthened my conviction that developing and nurturing community among ourselves is good first step, but we can't stop there.

If we are to take seriously what it means to follow Jesus, we have to continually remind ourselves that we are not just called together but also commissioned and sent out into the world. God sends us out to continue Jesus' ministry, sharing the good news, especially with people in our community who have been hurt by the church or, as in the case of people struggling with addiction, those who are literally dying to hear it.

- We are called to practice the radical hospitality of Jesus, not just with able-bodied cisgendered straight white adults, but with those who are often relegated to the margins.
- We are called to educate ourselves about our often unrecognized privilege and to acknowledge how our participation in long-term systemic racism has impacted people of color; and
- We are called to recognize that not speaking to the important issues in our community is itself a form of speech, just as not acting is a form of action.

Don't get me wrong. We are already doing some of these things and it is producing fruit, good fruit. But sometimes we get derailed in assessing our "success" by focusing only on how many people are sitting in the pews and how much money we have in the bank.

Maybe it's not a bad thing the church is dying, if it is dying to its old ways in order to make way for new life, resurrected life.

To help us claim our resurrection life, NEXT Church has developed a helpful assessment tool that shifts our thinking, represented partly by these statements:

- Think less in terms of church growth and more in terms of kingdom growth.
- Sometimes our work needs to be reduced in order to expand. Sometimes aspects of it need to come to an end.

*(A Note from the Pastor continues on page 3.)*

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# CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## FEBRUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2018 for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Caroline M. Kelly served as Moderator. Carolyn Mathews served as temporary Clerk of Session in Jeff Getty's absence.

The Session took the following actions:

- Approved the recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee to receive Josh Gilhart as an active member pending his public profession of faith and baptism during worship on March 4, 2018 (Josh was not been baptized when he "joined" the church in 2017).
- Approved the call of a Congregational meeting on March 4, 2018 to act on the nomination of Josh Gilhart to the 2021 Class of Session (One must be an active member to qualify to serve on the Session).
- Amended the Membership Records as of year-end 2017 and as of January 17, 2018 to correct Josh Gilhart's membership status.
- Confirmed the electronic vote authorizing the solicitation of funds from the Congregation as a gift to retiring Sexton John Brown.
- Approved the recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee to baptize Jax Kennedy Boor, son of Jackie and Chelsea Boor, during worship on March 18, 2018.
- Approved the serving of in-home communion to Polly Eyler by ruling elders Carl and Jane Belt on Sunday, February 4, 2018, *nunc pro tunc*.
- Approved the purchase of fifteen (15) light weight folding tables at a total cost of \$2,400.00 for use in the Fellowship Hall, contingent on the Administration and Finance Committee recommendation about the funding source.
- Approved the Personnel Committee's nomination of Jane Belt, Bob Courtney, Nadene Stroup and Rev. Kelly (*ex officio*) to serve as a search committee for our next Sexton.

In addition the Session heard reports from:

- Brittany Jackson on the extension of wireless service to areas of the church which were dead zones or had weak access.
- Rev. Kelly on her attendance at the NEXT Church Conference on February 26 – 28, 2018 in Baltimore.
- Agnes Yount on the progress in closing the sale of the Southminster Church property and a forthcoming recommendation concerning the retention of Tara Kellermeyer, Esq. to process the closing.
- David Stickler on his attendance at the Baltimore Presbytery Gathering on February 8, 2018 which began with a thoughtful worship service and continued with a lengthy examination for a commissioned ruling elder.

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk or the Moderator.

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(A Note from the Pastor continued from page 1.)

- Storytelling will stick long after the statistics are forgotten.

My hope lies in knowing that, in our baptisms, we have been offered resurrection life. As we continue to discern who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do, I look forward to finding ways to live boldly into that new life.



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## CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### FAREWELL BLESSINGS FOR JOHN BROWN

During worship on Sunday, February 25th, we celebrated Sexton John Brown's retirement and offered a farewell blessing for him and his wife, Linda, as they prepare to move to Florida.





# CONNECT WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Pam Jan	2-Mar
Dinah Searles	4-Mar
Mikayla Dodge	4-Mar
Joe Aurigemma	6-Mar
Sheri Sterne	6-Mar
Suanne Casseday	8-Mar
Chelsea Boor	11-Mar
Sandra Burton	11-Mar
Randy Stroup	15-Mar
John Johnson	17-Mar
Linda Smith	17-Mar
Jackie Boor	19-Mar
Gary Hartung	20-Mar
Kay Williams	20-Mar
Zach Dodge	22-Mar
Joe Weaver	25-Mar
Irene Kuykendall	26-Mar
Rolfe Singerman	27-Mar
Bert Barb	29-Mar
Bryan Wodaski	30-Mar

## Sympathy & Prayers

Sympathy and prayers to the family of Juanita Fix, on her death on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, March 14 at 11:00AM in the sanctuary.

Sympathy and prayers for Jason and Stefani and Allison Crowe in the death of their son (and brother), Austen, on Monday, February 5, 2018. Stefani is a teacher at the Learning Tree and Allison was an occasional participant in our youth group.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS



Just a reminder that daylight savings time begins Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to turn your clocks forward one hour!



## WHAT'S DESIGNATED

Designated funds are gifts or receipts for a particular purpose, to be spent in the current year or in future years.

For instance, the Reason for the Season gifts in December are being distributed to the recipients, and the Dakota Soup Sale receipts in January have increased the funds

available to support this year's Learning Camp.

Going into March, our largest designated funds, with \$1,000 or more in value, are, in order from largest down:

Special Ministries, Designated Property Improvements, Summer Lunchbox, Dakota Learning Camp, Non-Wills and Memorials Gifts (defined by revenue source, not use), Music - Special Offerings, Southminster Designated Property Improvements (see Note below), Mission - Special Projects, and Employee Emergency Fund.

Note: Approved by Session: After completion of the Southminster church property sale, the sale proceeds will be combined with the \$3,579.71 from the manse sale now in the Southminster Designated Property Improvements account, with the funds to be held pending Session decision on use of the funds for local mission.

## LEARN & GROWN

### EGG HUNT & BLESSING MILESTONE



**Date: Saturday,  
March 31, 2018  
Time: 10AM**

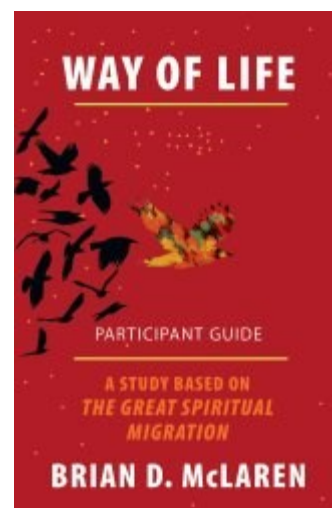
**Place:  
First Presbyterian Church  
Fellowship Hall**

A Milestones Ministry Moment for young children,  
grandchildren, their families and friends!

Activities include:  
breakfast potluck (We will provide drinks, plates, silverware, and  
ask that you bring a breakfast food to share.)  
devotional, egg coloring, egg hunting, and a blessing the eggs.

Please join us in a Milestone for Ministries Moment.

### WAY OF LIFE: A LENTEN STUDY BASED ON *THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION* BY BRIAN D. McLAREN



To be human is to move. To be human is to change. Today, Christianity is in need of change. More specifically, argues McLaren, Christianity is in need of a migration.

Join friends from Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul's Lutheran on Thursdays at 6:00PM in the Fellowship Hall for a simple supper, followed by study and conversation.

**March 8 – Toward a Loving God of Liberation**

**March 15 – For the Common Good**

### MILESTONES MINISTRY SAVE THE DATES



**Graduation Milestone**  
**Friday, April 27th at 6:00PM**  
**At Bill & Ann Kellermeyer's Home**

**Caregiver Milestone**  
**Sunday, June 11th at 11:15AM**  
**In the Fellowship Hall**

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received on Easter Sunday, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is one of the single, largest ways that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering makes a difference in the world. Please consider giving generously on Easter Sunday.

### REASON FOR THE SEASON THANKS AND UPDATE

Many thanks to all of you who responded to God's gift list for members of God's family you've never met! Your prayerful donations to Reason for the Season will help make 2018 a better year for them!

What did you give? Donations continued to come in through February. The final total was \$9,005.

That's impressive, but what you *really* gave was:

...more resources for "Hope Against Heroin" (\$700), and CityReach Church's "Hope Homes" (\$760), to help people here in Cumberland who are confronting heroin and its horrors, before it's too late. Ask how you can be personally involved, also.

...the ability for volunteers from this area to return to Marty, South Dakota this July, as they promised the Dakota children they would, and to have wonderful resources as they share the joy to learn (\$1120). Is this the year you volunteer to join them?

...scholarships (\$1695) for Christian girls to continue receiving a quality education to learn at Kinnard Academy in Lahore, Pakistan. Their thank-you letters for previous help are on the bulletin board in the hall. Be sure to take a look!

...hammers, helping hands, and hope through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for those who saw way too much water from hurricanes last year (\$1065).

...the sooner reality of a well-drilling machine, and the water it will provide for the thirsty Maasai and their cattle in southern Kenya with much too little water (\$1330).

You also gave to Special Ministries (\$300), the Western MD Food Bank (\$325), and the Interfaith Food Pantry (\$250), all here in Cumberland, to "This Child Here" in Ukraine (\$960), and to the children of Q Mountain orphanage in Lesotho (\$500). Together, a total of \$2335.

A big thank you to all who gave to Reason for the Season, letting God work through you! No total is *too little*, or *too much* for God . . .

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### UNION RESCUE MISSION

The Mission Committee is planning to highlight a local or world mission that FPC supports in the monthly church newsletters. This month's local mission to be shared is the Union Rescue Mission of Western MD located in Cumberland. Rev. Dan Taylor's family of two generations founded and successfully ran URM for decades, serving and helping thousands of needy persons and families. Upon their retirement, David Ziler, an ordained pastor, was hired to be the executive director for URM. David's wife, Andrea, is also very involved in their ministry to the Cumberland area.

There are some amazing figures that highlight URM's commitment to our area. They serve 160-200 meals daily. They provide homeless shelter in separate units for women, men, families, and people with disabilities. At full capacity, which is often during the cold months of winter, they can house 62 individuals. Pretty impressive!

Recently, URM has initiated a new health related service for their clients and neighbors, as they have established a walk in health clinic. Davis Ziler's wife, Andrea, is a nurse is overseeing this valuable service. Every Wednesday, a free walk in clinic is open and available to needy people with limited healthcare options. WMHS is an important partner in this service as they provide some staff and supplies. Andrea is available on the other 6 days to monitor support of existing patients through the week if needed. Examples would include monitoring blood pressure and blood sugar levels, making sure patients are complying with medications, and serving as a crisis counselor.

### ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO SERVE IN SOUTH DAKOTA THIS SUMMER?



If you would like to learn more about the ninth annual Learning Camp, please join Robin Bissell and Janet Hendershot after worship on **Sunday, March 18**, following worship in the library for a short slideshow and plenty of time for your questions.

Other times can be arranged by contacting Robin at [rbissell444@gmail.com](mailto:rbissell444@gmail.com).

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

### A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Dear Friends,

The upcoming Sundays leading us to Easter will be full of a variety of musical offerings from the Sanctuary Choir, the Young Adult Group, and guest instrumentalists. I invite you to look over the church calendar for a complete schedule of worship opportunities, particularly during Holy Week, beginning March 25. If you would like to add your voice to the musical leadership of any of these upcoming services, I invite you to speak with me anytime to learn more about upcoming rehearsals and repertoire.

Blessings,

Bryan Lohr



First Presbyterian Church  
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We Thank God For:

March

Address Service Requested

## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

\*Palm/Passion Sunday, March 25 at 11:00AM at First Presbyterian

\*Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 7:00PM at Emmanuel Episcopal

\*Good Friday, March 30 at 12:00 PM at First Presbyterian (in the Chapel)  
and 7:00PM at St. Paul's Lutheran

\*Egg Hunt/Blessing Milestone, March 31 at 10:00AM at First Presbyterian Church

\*Easter Sunday, April 1 = Sunrise service at Rocky Gap at 7:00AM and a traditional  
service in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian at 11:00AM