



**Presbyterian Times
March, 2016**

First Presbyterian Church
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A Message from Our Pastor
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Have you ever had one of those days when nothing seems to go right? Everything you touch breaks, falls to the ground, or makes a mess? Conversations get interrupted, trains of thought leave the station on some uncharted course, never to return to complete their journeys? Multi-tasking becomes just another word for not getting anything done because of all the interruptions to your day and your schedule and your LIFE! Oh for just a moment of serenity....

Peace will never be nurtured by the world and its constant motion. Peace is something carved out of the chaos swirling around us. In those moments when we feel disconnected and untethered, peace may not be as far away as we imagine. In the book [Fragments of Your Ancient Name](#), author Joyce Rupp writes a short reflection on Psalm 139 entitled "Eternal Presence". She writes,

"The psalmist raises a hypothetical question:

'Where can I flee from your presence?'

And then proceeds to answer, 'Nowhere'

For you are found in the highest of heavens

And in the lowest depths of the earth.

Who would want to run from you,

To escape your tremendous kindness?

Resistance might try to rule a wary heart

Or fear make an attempt to close off love,
but this does not keep you from staying near.

Today: I will not run from Eternal Presence.

During Lent, we are called to be a little more aware of the Eternal Presence who is love, who is parent, who is teacher, sibling, and savior. As we anticipate the glory of Easter, may we be aware of God's presence in this world, and may we too not run from Eternal Presence.

Peace, Pastor Lou Ellen

Membership News

Bob May, Newly Elected Chair

Our **Annual Chili Cook-off** was enjoyed by all, including **students and leaders** of our affiliate MS&T Student group, **Common Call** (Hope Lutheran, Episcopal, Presbyterian students). All contestants were "Winners" but the greatest number of votes were in the "Pot" of **Carol Bennett**. You're all invited to compete at our next event.

"First Friday Night Out" – this Friday, **March 4th. 6:00 p.m.** at Bandanas.

Let Bob May (341-2646 carbobbmay@gmail.com) know if you can be there – he needs to arrange with the restaurant for seating.

Come enjoy early Spring weather this **Sunday, March 6th. 1:30 p.m. for a short hike** (choice of half mile, mile or a bench visit) at the **Audubon Park** ---- Hwy E exit to White Columns Dr. then to Meriweather Ct.

Watch for news of family outings in April and May.

Britt Whitaker reports the Bus is full for the **Cardinal Baseball Game, May 19th**. but will maintain a "Reserve" list in case of cancellations.

We're thankfully noting a number of **new visitors** in our Worship and other activities. **Please get to know them, invite them to fellowship time, invite them to lunch** (or ask Carlene to invite them to lunch), and **make sure others get to meet them.**

Common Call Campus Fellowship

Jonathan Kimball

Common Call Campus Fellowship is a joint campus ministry of our church with Hope Lutheran and Christ Episcopal Churches. The group meets at Hope Lutheran at 5 pm for a meal, video, and discussion. The meeting dates for this semester are: March 6, March 13, April 10, April 24, and May 6.

Stewardship
Barbara Ford

We mourn the loss of our committee chair, Rob Heberer. He will be missed. We continue to keep his family in our prayers. The committee did not meet in February due to weather, Rob's death, and prior commitments of other committee members. The January 31, 2016 financial data is as follows:

General Fund Bank Balance	\$21,205.71
Renovation Fund Bank Balance	\$13,739.87
Reserve Account balance	\$215,403.40
January Income	\$12,525.86
January Expenses	\$15,405.16

The reserve account has experienced a minor negative balance due to stock market fluctuations. The renovation account reflects the second and final payment for the registers installation. Also, a few members of the congregation have begun to donate toward the cost of the registers even though we have yet to develop a capital campaign this spring. Please bear with us – and a big thank you to all early contributors. Please keep the needs of your church in your prayers. Per capita for 2016 is \$31. Thank you to all members who have already contributed toward this expense.



It is the Marvelous Month of March in Preschool and we have got a lot going on! We will have Parent/Teacher Conferences this month, The Cat in the Hat will visit our classrooms for Dr. Seuss's Birthday, we will have Graduation Pictures, pictures with the Easter Bunny, P.E. at The Centre, Afternoon Storytime with Frank and Carol Jessop, our Easter Egg Hunt and then we will all need our Spring Break!!

We have some exciting things planned as the end of this school year draws closer. The theme for pre-k graduation is "Preschool of Rock" and it promises to be adorable! 😊

As many of you know, every year the Preschool has a fundraiser to benefit a local community organization. This year we will be raising money and awareness for Danny's Dose, a local non-profit aimed at providing education to emergency responders about how to treat patients with rare diseases. Danny Shelton, for whom the charity is

named, is a student here at Presbyterian Preschool and Danny has Hemophilia. We will be hosting a Disney Trivia Night and Silent Auction for our Preschool families to raise money for this cause! I am so proud to be a part of an organization that has a heart for our community!

Keep us in your prayers and we will keep you in ours! Thank you for your support of our Preschool Ministry! You are a blessing to us and hopefully we are a blessing to you! ☺

PRAYER FOR PEACE OFFICERS

March 9th 2016

6:00 p.m.

Concept for this event:

With the ever changing world and government we live in our fellow brothers and sisters in blue are senselessly losing their lives while attempting to help others and their communities. We are asking for a 30 minute to 1 hour prayer service to include our local law enforcement family and community. We hope this prayer service will raise awareness and bring our communities closer together to help fight a good fight with a peaceful ending.

Several of our local churches in Phelps County are dedicating a special non-denominational evening service for the purpose of praying for our law enforcement officers in these difficult times. The participating churches are as follows:

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| First Baptist Church of Rolla | (801 N. Cedar Street Rolla, MO.) |
| First Assembly of God | (1608 N. Oak Street, Rolla, MO.) |
| Greentree Christian Church | (800 Greentree Rd. Rolla MO.) (Refreshments after) |
| Apostolic Pentecostal Church | (750 S. Rolla Street Rolla, MO.) |
| Ridgeview Christian Church | (806 Ridgeview Rd. Rolla, MO) |
| Rolla Church of Christ | (1303 Nagogami Rd Rolla, MO)(Meal before at 5:30) |
| Central Community Church of God | (400 N. Olive Street Rolla, MO) |
| Seventh Day Adventist Church | (810 Hwy O Rolla, MO.) |
| Rolla Church of the Nazarene | (1901 E 10 th Street Rolla, MO.) |
| Ozark Highland Christian Church | (10100 Vineyard Drive, MO.) |

One Great Hour of Sharing Frank Jessop

Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing serves to help change the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

OGHS revived during the season of Lent makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

Our goal for One Great Hour of Sharing is \$1000.00. You can buy a fish for \$50.00 or a part of a fish. Each Sunday the children will put the fish on the net. We will dedicate OGHS Easter Sunday. We will also be collecting personal hygiene items each Sunday for people seeking shelter at Russell House. Hygiene items will be placed in the "Basket of Hope".

Worship and Music Jonathan Kimball, Chair

We have entered the season of Lent, as we travel with Jesus through the ups and downs, the love and hate of the world, culminating in the Good News of Easter. I would like to share some of the upcoming events for March, as well as other logistical items.

Worship will continue as usual: Sundays at 9:45 am and Thursdays at 6:30 pm (in the chapel). Please note that in the event of inclement weather, as on February 14, we may need to cancel worship. Between the trustees and our snow removal contractor, we can deal with most snow events, but sleet and ice are a different story. Cancellations will be posted on our web site (www.rollapresby.org) and our Facebook page. I also contact KMST and KTTR so that they can announce the cancellation, although I believe KTTR simply lists them on their own web site. We are also working on setting up a phone tree.

In addition to regular worship, the Presbyterian Women will host Lenten Luncheons, as in years past, on March 3, 10 and 17 in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 11:45 am. Details may be found elsewhere.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 20. Then there will be a service on **Maundy Thursday, March 24, at 6:30 pm in the chapel** in place of the regular FIRED UP! service. The Maundy Thursday service will draw some inspiration from FIRED UP! but will largely resemble services held in years past.

The Bell Choir had great success collaborating with First Baptist Church during Advent, and so is continuing that collaboration during Holy Week. The combined Bell Choir will perform at First Baptist on Palm Sunday and at First Presbyterian on Easter. For time

management purposes, **we will begin playing bells at approximately 9:35 am on Easter, March 27.** Please plan accordingly.

On January 31, we had our first regular FIRED UP! style service according to our new plan: every time there is a fifth Sunday, the service will be informal, with more modern music and projection. Our new projector, purchased with special donations, is much better than what we used back in August. For now, the overall setup will remain in its somewhat temporary state, because making it more permanent will be expensive and the church has other, more pressing needs right now. The FIRED UP! Sunday services for 2016 will be: January 31, May 29, July 31, and October 30.

Peace be with you this Lenten season.

Jonathan Kimball, Chair

From the Office
Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

Spring is almost here and March holds a lot of activities for the church and some new events as well.

Our annual Lenten luncheons are March 3, 10, and 17 at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our speakers this year are Rev. Bob Morrison, Rev. Lindy Hardwick and Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley.

First Friday Night Out event is March 4th at Bandanas at 6 pm.

A new ministry Common Call Fellowship begins March 6th at 5 pm at Hope Lutheran Church.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 13. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour.

Maundy Thursday service is March 24th at 6:30 pm in the Chapel.

Spring break for our students is March 25 – April 4.

Easter Sunday service is March 27th.



wishes go out to Jacob Drewniak, Lucy Greig, Deborah Hall, David Cottingham, Serena Franks, Ryne, Steve Bowles, Gerre McKay, Lee Bennett, and Bob Anderson.



Wishes go out to Eugene and Janice Zanders, Jonathan and Rhonda Kimball and George and Fredi Zobrist.