Sue’s Musings – A Year of Gratitude

This year is a special year in the life of our church. 150 years ago a small group of faithful people gathered and formed a church – First Presbyterian Church. A lot has happened in that time! We have had our ups and down, but one thing has remained constant: we have remained grateful to the God who called us to this place, and who continues to guide us in our ministry.

The session has declared this year “A Year of Gratitude:”

- Gratitude for those faithful people who settled here 150 years ago and gathered in faith, believing that God had a purpose for them here,
- Gratitude for those who passed on their faith to us,
- Gratitude for those who had the foresight to invest their dollars in this church for a future ministry they could only imagine,
- Gratitude for the ministry that has gone out from this place,
- Gratitude for the current members of this church who carry on that tradition of giving, serving, and dreaming of what tomorrow might hold.

As a celebration of our anniversary and the gratitude we have, we have several special events and activities planned for the year:

We will be kicking off our “Year of Gratitude” with a One Church – One Book study between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday, when we will have a four-session discussion on the book Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks, by Diana Butler Bass. Diana Bass is a church historian and thinker about the role of the church in today’s world. (More to come on when and where the various discussion groups will happen.)
On **Sunday, March 31**, we will have a special service of gratitude and a meal to celebrate our 150th birthday. Elona Street-Steward, our Synod Executive, will be our special guest for worship, as will several of our previous pastors.

On **Pentecost Sunday, June 9**, we will join First Christian Church, who is also celebrating their 150th anniversary, for a special joint worship service and meal in Antelope Park.

**November 8-10**, in partnership with Southern Heights Presbyterian Church and Homestead Presbytery, Diana Butler Bass will join us in person for a series of conversations and worship on the topic of Gratitude.

Look for more activities during the year on the topic of Gratitude, and put these special events on your calendar.

As we enter this special year in the life of our church, what are you grateful for?

**Pastor Sue**

~ Rooted in God ~ Open to Grace ~ Filled with Joy ~ and Ever Grateful! ~

**Annual Meeting and Lunch**

**Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 11 am**

Join us for a celebration of our past year, and a look forward to 2019! We will have one service only on Feb. 3 at 11 am, and then gather in fellowship hall for lunch and our meeting.
Mission and Social Justice
We will commit up to $3,000 in global mission funds to Water Wells for Africa, contributing through a project of PCUSA Mission. They will donate any remaining 2018 Local Mission funds, estimated at $100, to the Gathering Place. The committee is holding a winter Hat-Glove-Mitten Drive for McPhee.

Stewardship & Finance
86 pledges have been received. Working on the 2019 budget.

NOTE: Most Committees did not meet in December thus the shortened session highlights

Notes

First Report Deadline for March!

March’s First Report Deadline is February 15th. Anything turned in after that date may not get included in the newsletter. This is to allow for time for editing, printing and mailing the newsletter to our members. Thank you for getting your information to us from the various committee’s, groups and activities within the church!
FPChristian Education

We have turned the calendar to 2019 and hopefully our schedules have gotten back to normal. Here at the church our Sunday School and Youth programs are doing just that…sort of. To see what’s happening this month, check out the calendar below!

Our Forum speaker this month is … Mollie George, Program Specialist for the Nebraska Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association.

What’s Happening in November!

Children’s Ministry and Faith Formation:
Feb. 3rd – Children’s Mission Hour and FORUM
Feb. 10th – Sunday School, Activity Time, and Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
Feb. 20th – Sunday School and Activity Time
Feb. 27th – Sunday School and Activity Time

Youth Ministry and Faith Formation:
Feb. 2nd @ 10:00 am – Annual Meeting Lunch Set-up and Prep
Feb. 3rd @ 9:30 am – Annual Meeting Lunch (No Sunday Night Youth Fellowship)
Feb. 10th @ 5:30pm – Youth Sunday (Liturgy)
Feb. 17 @5:30 pm – Youth Sunday Rehearsal
Feb. 24 – Youth Sunday @ 8:30 and 11:00am worship services.

Adult Ministry and Faith Formation:
(Sunday Morning Classes unless otherwise noted)
FORUM – "Know the 10 Signs: Early Detection Matters" which focuses on separating myth from reality and addresses commonly held fears about Alzheimer's disease as well as how to recognize the signs in yourself and others

Bible Discovery Class meets in Room 105. The Bible Discovery Class uses the Present Word curriculum which is a bible study exploring various themes.
Faith and Theology Class meets in Room 107. This class uses a DVD presentation followed up by group discussion. Their topic this quarter is “Allegiance to Empire”

Third Sunday in Hebrews meets in Hebrews 211 (2nd floor) on the third Sundays of each month for a discussion on various Christian Doctrines and how they have changed throughout history. This month’s topic is “Why Doesn’t God Do Something about Evil?”

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women (PW) Birthday Offering is one of PW’s two offerings. It has been in existence since 1922. This offering is received in the spring each year. It gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives. The Birthday Offering funds up to five projects each year, in amounts of $75,000 to $150,000 each. Each year as many as five new projects, both domestic and international are carefully and prayerfully selected by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee. The recipients for 2019 have not yet been published, however a list of projects funded from 1988-2016 can be obtained from the PW website. The generosity of Presbyterian Women and their families and congregations through the Birthday Offering helps fund real solutions in the areas of health, education, economic development and the needs of women and children.

This year First Presbyterian and PW of First Presbyterian will be taking up the Birthday Offering at services on February 10, 2018 and PW will provide treats after service as a thank you.
Sing from the Heart—Musical Memories
Dessert Concert & Charity Fundraiser
Sunday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.
in Great Hall (seating is limited)

featuring the First Presbyterian Choir, with special guests:
Jackie Allen, jazz vocalist; Hans Sturm, bass; Tom Larson, piano

Charity Fundraiser for MUSIC & MEMORY®

MUSIC & MEMORY® is a non-profit organization that brings personalized music into the lives of the elderly or infirm through digital music technology, vastly improving quality of life. They train nursing home staff and other elder care professionals, as well as family caregivers, how to create and provide personalized playlists that enable those struggling with Alzheimer's, dementia and other cognitive and physical challenges to reconnect with the world through music-triggered memories.

This concert will feature many wonderful musical memories for everyone in the audience, while providing a way to use music to help those struggling with their own cognitive and physical challenges. In addition to the First Presbyterian Choir, local jazz vocalist Jackie Allen, along with Hans Sturm, bass, and Tom Larson, piano, will add their own smooth and memorable sounds to this wonderful event. Fabulous desserts included!
Water Wells for Africa

Every 60 seconds, a young child dies from a water-related disease. An estimated 2.5 billion people (more than 35% of the world’s population) lack access to improved sanitation. The World Health Organization reports that water-related diseases are the leading cause of disease and death around the world. Africa faces the greatest challenge of any region of the world with roughly one in three people (330 million) not using a clean water source.

In these areas most of the burden of fetching water falls on women and children. They spend hours each day traveling long distances under often unsafe conditions to carrying heavy loads. Often they are vulnerable to injuries, assaults, and even trafficking in remote areas. Because of First Presbyterian Church’s commitment to mission and our strong partnership with the Sudanese community in Lincoln, a donation is being made to Water Wells for Africa (WWFA).

Since 1996, WWFA has been installing water wells and promoting rural African community development by providing sustainable water sources and reducing health risks associated with contaminated water. The WWFA’s average cost per well is $8,000. This not only includes drilling a well and installing a pump, but also supports the formation of a village committee to oversee the well and provides the village with hygiene and sanitation training. Each well serves 2,000 people. Our gift, when joined with gifts from other Presbyterian Churches, will help fund a safer water supply and healthier community.

If you would like to learn more about this mission or would like to add to the church’s gift, which is made to a PCUSA fund, please contact a member of the Mission Outreach and Social Justice Committee.

Thank you to everyone at First Presbyterian Church who generously gives of their time, talent and finances to support mission efforts locally and globally.
Mission Outreach and Social Justice Committee
SAND DOLLARS will meet Friday evening, February 15 for a 6:30 P.M. potluck supper followed by our guest speaker from The Gathering Place. Many of us volunteer there but may not know all the joys and challenges that are a part of such a program. All are welcome and bring a guest!

ECUMENICAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING DAY IS SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9 AT CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 4530 A. ST. Coffee and registration begins at 8:00 A.M. Pre-registration $20 includes lunch, At the door $25. lunch if available. Deadline to register is February 1st.


Sing from the Heart
Musical Memories
Dessert Concert & Charity Fundraiser for Music & Memory©
Sunday, February 17 - 7:00 p.m.
Featuring the First Presbyterian Choir with special guests:
Jackie Allen, jazz vocalist; Hans Sturm, bass; Tom Larson, piano
MUSIC & MEMORY® is a non-profit organization that brings personalized music into the lives of the elderly or infirm through digital music technology, vastly improving quality of life.
Join us at the Supper Club!

We have a chair reserved for you! The 3rd Sunday of the Month Super Club (formally Henry’s Super Club) would be delighted if you could join us February 17, 2018 at 12:30 pm (immediately following the 11 am service)

Screamers Dining & Cabaret 803 Q Street

Great Entertainment, Lots of Laughter & Delicious Food Options
While the laughter and conversation are free, we are a no host group (each person selects from a variety of menu options or the Sunday buffet).

If you have any questions or need additional information, grab Nancy Field, Keith Larsen, Barb Nieveen or LuEtta Anderson any Sunday.

For information about Screamers visit www.screamersdining.org
To reserve your spot at the table, contact LuEtta Anderson@ 402-438-5082 or Barb Nieveen @ 402-438-0344.

We have a new group that started this past month! They are offering Zumba classes every Tuesday and Friday starting at 10:30 am. These are a great bunch of ladies that are so happy to be here and would welcome anyone that wants to join in with them.

El Centro, originally known as the Hispanic Community Center (HCC), was founded in 1982 and became a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit in 1983. For over 35 years, we have provided services in the areas of education, family support, youth empowerment, health, and resource navigation. El Centro’s bilingual and bicultural staff’s objective is to provide our clients with professional and courteous services.
El Centro coordinates numerous community programs that are generally hosted at 210 ‘O’ Street, Lincoln, NE 68508. Some of our programs are, Domestic Violence, Health, Crisis Prevention & Assistance, fitness, help to cancer patients, and more. We serve to the community with love and passion.
For more information, please visit our web site http://www.elcentrodelasamericas.org/
Celebrate Children’s Authors & Illustrators

The first week of February is Children’s Authors and Illustrators week. The FPC library has many fabulous books for children and youth. From classics by authors like Laura Ingalls Wilder and Judy Bloom to popular new books like the Diary of a Wimpy Kid and I am Malala. For younger readers we have many early readers and beautiful picture books, too. Truly something for every reader.

Author Spotlight: W.E.B Du Bois

W.E.B Du Bois was an American author, historian and editor. He was one of the most important African-American activists in the early 20th century and a co-founder of the NAACP. He was the first African-American to earn a Ph.D from Harvard University. He championed the idea of full and equal rights for every person. Du Bois was a prolific writer, and his best known book, The Souls of Black Folk, can be found in the FPC library.

February is Black History Month

We have a great selection of books that focus on the experience of people of color, the challenges they have faced, and their strength to overcome the obstacles put before them.

- Lanterns, Memoir of Mentors, by Maria Wright Edelman
- Same Kind of Different as Me, by Ron Hall and Denver Moore
- Stride Toward Freedom, by Martin Luther King, Jr.
- The Color of Water, by James McBride
- Up From Slavery, by Booker T. Washington
- Hidden Figures, by Margot Lee Shetterly

Read it and Weep!

Find romantic fiction, guaranteed to tug at your heartstrings. Authors from Karen Kingsbury and Debbie Macomber to Nicholas Sparks and Stephanie Grace Whitson can be found on our shelves. Kleenex not included.

February is also Library Lovers month!

Celebrate by showing some love for the FPC library; stop in, browse the shelves, and take a good book or three home with you.

First Presbyterian Church
BY THE NUMBERS...

Learn the different Book sections in the FPC Library, based on their Dewey Decimal Numbers.

220 — The Bible
Find many versions of the Bible, from King James to New Revised Standard, along with Study Bibles and Bible Commentaries

These are located just inside the south door on the west wall.

LIBRARY BOOKS — CHECK THEM OUT!!!
First Presbyterian Church
Where faith is nurtured, curiosity is encouraged, diversity is welcomed, and all are loved.

Outside Classes and Programs @ FPC:

- Men’s AA - Mondays
- Women’s AA - Tuesdays
- Big Book Bunch AA - Tuesdays and Thursdays
- El Centro Zumba Class - Tuesday and Friday
- Lincoln Literacy - Monday through Thursday
- SCC ESL - Monday through Thursday
- Flyleaf Book Club - 3rd Friday of the month

At FPC, we warmly welcome any sort of group or organization that provides needed services for members of our community.