

STAYING CONNECTED, MARCH 19, 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CATHY

How is Lent working on you this year?

This is the question asked in a recent pastor's gathering. If we are journeying through Lent as it is intended to prepare us for Jesus death and resurrection, it should be working on us.

- Disrupting our rhythm
- Deepening our connections
- Revealing something unexpected
- Expanding our understandings

So how is Lent working on you?

Have you made time to truly experience it?

We are barely halfway through our journey to the cross, a time to start some faith practices that may have been laid by the wayside in the past season. A good place to start are some exercises around forgiveness, reading the Bible, giving,

praying, praising God, fasting, and finding rest in God.

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. James 4:8-10

These verses from James remind us to get serious about God and put God first in our lives. Knowing that putting God first is an action!

May this season of Lent work on you, dear Christian, and draw you near to our Lord and Savior.

In Peace,

Pastor Cathy



Chili Cook-Off Winners



Dessert Bake-Off Winners



2025 Annual Chili Cook-Off & Bake-Off was a huge success and a lot of fun!

March 1976, article in the FPCHL Lamplighter newsletter:

LENTEN SERVICES:

For 5 weeks during Lent, 5 churches will cooperate and meet together for Mid-Week Lenten Services. The 5 churches are:

Church of Christ
 Howard Lake Methodist Church
 Montrose Methodist Church
 St. John's Lutheran Church
 First Presbyterian Church

The Theme for this series of Lenten Services will be Jesus said, "I AM..." from the Gospel of John. Each service will begin at 8:00 p.m.

March 10 - First Presbyterian Church
 "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE"
 Preacher, Clayton Burgess
 (Our Senior Choir will sing)

March 17 - Howard Lake Methodist Church
 "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD"
 Preacher, Vern Skarstad

March 24 - Church of Christ
 "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE"
 Preacher, Dwight Chamberlain

March 31 - Montrose Methodist Church
 "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"
 Preacher, Dale Rumsey

April 7 - St. John's Lutheran Church
 Slides and narration by Clayton Burgess on his recent trip to the Holy Land.

April 15 - Maundy Thursday
 Service to be held in each church.

Please Pray for . . .

Healing: Rose Barberg's daughter Cheryl Paicius, Alma Robinson's grandson Chris Robinson, Mike Koepp, Maureen Hoover, Rose Barberg, Adell Mumford, Gini Gutknecht's nephew Tim Anderson, Gretchen Karg & Sam Berg

At Cokato Manor: Reta Blanchette

Please pray for thankfulness and joy for the lives of . . . Tom, Christie, Lane & Madie Tussing! Lord, bless this wonderful family with your gifts of peace, joy and love!

"Prayer is the breath of the soul and of life."

~ Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday, 3/23/25, **3rd Sunday in Lent, Give, Luke 11:5-13**

Sunday, 3/30/25, **4th Sunday in Lent, Praise, Luke 1:46-55**

Sunday, 4/6/25, **5th Sunday in Lent, Pray, Luke 18:9-14**

Sunday, 4/13/25, **Palm Sunday, Protest, Luke 19:28-34**

Sunday, 4/20/25, **Easter Sunday, Trust, Luke 24:1-12**

Soup Supper & Table Worship

Lenten Worship will be on Wednesdays, March 19th and April 2nd. Youth Education time will begin at 5:15 pm, Soup Supper at 6:00 pm, and Table Worship at 6:30 pm.

Palm Sunday Breakfast

Join us for *Palm Sunday Breakfast* on Sunday, April 13th beginning at 8:30 am.

Remembering the Passover

We gather together on Wednesday, April 16th at 6:00 pm as we "Remember the Passover." It's a powerful remembrance of the journey to freedom.

Maundy Thursday

Worship and communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17th at 6:30 pm.

Easter Sunday

We celebrate the *Resurrection of our Lord* on Easter Sunday at 9:30 am. Join us!

Celebrating 150 Years of First Presbyterian Church

This year marks a remarkable milestone—our church's 150th anniversary! To celebrate, we are planning special events throughout the year, and we'd love you to be a part of it.

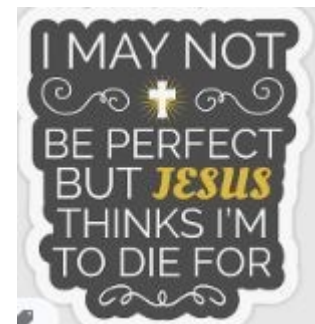
Do you have photos or videos (old or new), cherished stories, or meaningful artifacts connected to the church? We would be grateful to include them in our displays—both in the church and online—to help showcase our rich history.

Please share this message with others who may have memories to contribute! Digital items can be sent to me, and I'd be happy to pick up any physical items you'd like to share.

Thank you for helping us honor and preserve our church's legacy!

April Birthdays	
Shane Koepp	4
Perry Johnson	7
Nealie Berg	9
Dave Hoover	10
Tina Decker	13
Matt Berg	24
Michael Mumford	24
Carmen Grangroth	24
Tom Tussing	24
Michele Berg	25
Curt Forst	26
Megan Johnson	28
Cathy Jones	29

April Anniversaries	
Tim & Michele Berg	6
David & Maureen Hoover	21
Steve & Tami Freed	30



APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5:15 pm Youth Education 6:00 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Table Worship	3	4	5
6 5th Sunday in Lent; Build Vital Congregations Sunday 8:30-9:15 am Bible Study & Prayer Time 9:30 am Worship Music: Gretchen Karg 10:30 am Fellowship	7	8 International Roma Day	9 6:30 pm Session Meeting	10	11	12
13 Palm Sunday 8:30 am Palm Sunday Breakfast 9:30 am Worship Music: Gretchen Karg	14	15	16 5:15 pm Youth Education 6:00 pm "Remembering the Passover" All are welcome!	17 Maundy Thursday; International Day of Farmers' Struggles 6:30 pm Worship & Communion	18 Good Friday	19
20 Easter Sunday; One Great Hour of Sharing 8:30-9:15 am Bible Study & Prayer Time 9:30 am Worship Music: Gretchen Karg 10:30 am Fellowship	21	22 Earth Day	23	24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day	25	26
27 2nd Sunday of Easter 8:30-9:15 am Bible Study & Prayer Time 9:30 am Worship Music: Gretchen Karg 10:30 am Fellowship	28	29	30 5:15 pm Youth Bowling Event			

First Presbyterian Church of Howard Lake

721—9th Street

PO Box 246

Howard Lake, MN 55349

(320) 543-2806

firstpreshl@gmail.com

www.firstpreshl.org

“Open doors, open tables, open hearts”

Office:

Church Phone: 320-543-2806

E-Mail: firstpreshl@gmail.com

Webpage: www.firstpreshl.org

Pastor: Pastor Cathy Jones

Cell Phone: 763-528-1784

E-Mail: firstpreshl.pastor@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Karen Neisen

Hours:

Tuesday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Wednesday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

April Events

4/2 Youth Education, Soup Supper & Table Worship

4/6 Bible Study, Worship & Fellowship

4/8 International Roma Day

4/9 Session Meeting

4/13 Palm Sunday Breakfast & Worship

4/16 Youth Education & “Remembering the Passover”

4/17 Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion

4/18 Good Friday

4/20 Bible Study, Easter Sunday Worship & Fellowship

4/22 Earth Day

4/27 Bible Study, Worship & Fellowship

4/30 Youth Bowling Event