First Presbyterian Church of Red Wing
503 West Sixth Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

First Presbyterian Church - Red Wing

Pres.Bits

Mar 2025, Vol. 25 Issue 3

Welcoming New Members & Embracing the Season of Renewal

As we step into March, we celebrate the joy of welcoming new members into our church family. Their presence enriches our community, reminding us of the love and fellowship we share in Christ.
We also celebrated Scouting Sunday, where our Scouts participated in worship and hosted a wonderful breakfast, bringing us all together in fellowship. It was a meaningful time to connect.
Spring is on the horizon, bringing with it the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. This sacred time invites us to reflect, renew, and realign our hearts with God - whether through fasting, giving up habits, or embracing more intentional living. As we prepare for Easter, may we journey together in faith, hope and spiritual growth.

Happy Birthday!

3/2 Valerie Miller
3/4 Bonnie Lohmann
3/7 Nancy Braschler
3/8 Ben Dulak
3/15 Jean Egbert
3/16 Richard Thompson

3/19 Daryl Franklin
3/22 Sherryl Edgington
3/23 Anna Kohlnhofer
3/27 Becky Norton
3/31 Lynn Dulak

From The Desk of Tricia Perau

Hello Church Family:

*Spring into Action with Youth Ministry!
Hey First Presbyterian family! Get ready for an action-packed spring filled with friendship, faith, and fun! Our youth ministry has some awesome events lined up that you won't want to miss.
*March Madness of Fun!
Mark your calendars for March 16th – we're kicking things off with a delicious Sloppy Joe lunch right after church at 11:30. But that's just the beginning! Following lunch, we're heading out for some winter fun at Steeple Chase for tubing (or bowling if Mother Nature doesn't cooperate with snow). The best part? Christian Education is covering the costs! Just bring some extra cash if you're craving snacks. We'll have everyone back to church by 5:00 PM.
*Coffee, Books & Deep Conversations
Starting March 23rd, youth can join us for our morning book study at Starbucks on Sunday mornings at 8 AM! We'll be diving into "Love without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with no Exceptions" by Jacqueline Bussie. Want your favorite drink ready when you arrive? Join our GroupMe chat by emailing Tricia Perau at dce@firstpresbyterianredwing.com. She'll take your orders every Saturday night to ensure your breakfast treats are ready when you arrive!
*April Adventures: Feed My Starving Children
Get ready to make a difference! On April 12th, we're heading to Feed My Starving Children in Eagan. We have 25 spots available for this amazing service opportunity, and we'd love to see church members ages 7 and up join us! We'll meet at church and caravan to our 9:30-11:15 AM session at the Eagan facility. And because serving others works up an appetite, we're planning to stop at Pizza Ranch in Cottage Grove on the way home for some well-deserved lunch and fellowship.

Worship Volunteer Schedule:

Sunday Mar. 2: Layleader – ?, Greeter – David & Marsha Little, Usher – David & Marsha Little, Coffee/Fellowship – Kris Kvols & Doug Fryer
Sunday Mar. 9: Layleader – ?, Greeter – Hal & Suzanne Murry, Usher – Anne Barlass, Coffee/Fellowship – Fellowship/Membership Committee
Sunday Mar. 16: Layleader – ?, Greeter – ?, Usher – Paula Marshall, Coffee/Fellowship – Tom & Tricia Ryan
Sunday Mar. 23: Layleader – ?, Greeter – Daryl Franklin, Usher – ?, Coffee/Fellowship – Joan & Daryl Franklin
Sunday Mar. 30: Layleader – ?, Greeter – ?, Usher – ?, Coffee/Fellowship – JoAnne McNamara & Susan Crocker
If you would like to sign up please see Valerie in the office or sign up sheets are on the table in the narthex.

Your Church Staff Contact Information

Pastor Casey vanderBent	pastorcasey@firstpresbyterianredwing.com 651-327-2355 (non-emergency) 651-491-4997 (emergency)
Valerie Miller—Office Manager	office@firstpresbyterianredwing.com 651-327-2358 (o) 651-380-5029 (c)
Tricia Perau - Director of CE	dce@firstpresbyterianredwing.com 651-327-2350
Peggy Thompson—Treasurer	treasurer@firstpresbyterianredwing.com
JoAnne McNamara—Organist	*(see directory for contact information)*
Lynn Dulak—Pianist	"
Scott Perau—Choir Director	"
Peter Dulak—Sexton	"
Hayley McTaggart--Nursery Attendant	"
Piper Ryan--Nursery Attendant	"
Silas Perau--Worship Tech	"
Abby Schmaltz--Worship Tech	"

Your Church Elders

Scott Halverson
Daisy Hofer
JoAnne McNamara
Dale Wagner
Doug Fryer
Bob Walker
Daryl Franklin

Your Church Deacons

Anne Barlass—Chair
Susan Crocker
Joy Smith
Mary Ellen Halverson
Sandy Walker
Bonnie Lohmann
Ruth Misenko
Bit Skaar
Nancy Wagner

Upcoming Holidays/Office Closures

March 5 : Ash Wednesday – Office Open

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9 a.m. Adult Education 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Fellowship 11:15 a.m. Missions Committee	3 10-2 Office Hours 4:30 p.m. Christian Ed. Meeting 6 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts	4 10-2 Office Hours 4 p.m. Deacons Meeting	5 **Ash Wednesday** 8 a.m. Men's Book Club 10-2 Office Hours 10 a.m. Tai Chi 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	6 10-2 Office Hours	7 Church Office Closed	8
9 9 a.m. Adult Education 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Fellowship Lunch & Talent Show	10 10-2 Office Hours 6 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts	11 10-2 Office Hours 5 p.m. Finance & Stewardship	12 8 a.m. Men's Book Club 10-2 Office Hours 10 a.m. Tai Chi 12 p.m. Ecumenical Lent Service	13 10-2 Office Hours	14 Church Office Closed	15
16 9 a.m. Adult Education 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Fellowship	17 10-2 Office Hours 6 p.m. Bible Study No Scouts 7 p.m. GC Horticulture Soc.	18 10-2 Office Hours	19 8 a.m. Men's Book Club 10-2 Office Hours 10 a.m. Tai Chi 12 p.m. Ecumenical Lent Service 7 p.m. Session	20 10-2 Office Hours	21 Church Office Closed	22
23 9 a.m. Adult Education 10 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	24 10-2 Office Hours 6 p.m. Bible Study No Scouts	25 10-2 Office Hours	26 8 a.m. Men's Book Club 10-2 Office Hours 10 a.m. Tai Chi 12 p.m. Ecumenical Lent Service	27 10-2 Office Hours	28 Church Office Closed	29
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From the Pastor…

Dear People of FPC,

Talking about money is not something that church people generally do very well. Yet we have to, of course, because even though we are called in faith to be separate from this world in our priorities, we are firmly planted in this beautiful, mixed up, imperfect place and time. We have bills to pay and property to care for an, most importantly, ministries in which to engage that all cost money.

We recently passed a budget for this year that projected a deficit. I believe that the budget was prepared, presented, and received with an appropriate amount of hope and reliance on God's provision and our shared responsibility and good intentions. What I think may have been missing from the conversation is sufficient clarity on where some of the revenue that supports our budget comes from and also what other costs were not included in the budget.

One of the realities that deserves our attention is that over $40,000 of the projected income for 2025 (close to 15% of total revenue) comes from draw-downs from our investments. It is, in my opinion, completely appropriate for a church both to have an endowment and to allow that endowment to support, at least in small part, the ongoing operation of the church. In that way, our former members can contribute to the ongoing work of FPC long after their passing and I think that's a true act of faith. The flip side to that truth, though, is that if we were a church without an endowment, we wouldn't just be short around $19,500 (our anticipated deficit) but would be over $60,000 short which would, necessarily, prompt significant reductions in our spending. This doesn't mean that having an endowment is wrong or that using some of the earnings to support our budget is wrong either. I think both are completely appropriate. It simply means that we have an obligation to each other to be completely aware and utterly transparent about these realities.

You will hopefully have read or heard in the budget presentation that we removed capital expenditures, like replacing air conditioning units, from our operating budget. This is standard practice; to separate expenses for normal operations from those tied to major equipment replacement and other expenses. Your Finance and Stewardship Committee will be in conversation with you regarding those and other capital expenditures and how to pay for them.

Through every stewardship season and in the years to come, your Finance and Stewardship Committee, working with the elected leadership of this church, will continue to be in conversation with you about how to prioritize the work and ministries of this church, matching our spending to reflect the giving capacity of our present community and the available funds coming from the gifts of past members. We continue to be, across the generations, in this work of faith together and we continue to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us in all things. That Spirit presence and guidance is especially helpful when we are called to have difficult or uncomfortable conversations. The Lord travels this journey with us and we are indeed in good hands.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Casey

Community in Action: Serving, Celebrating, and Worshiping Together!

FPCRW LENTEN SCHEDULE

*Ash Wednesday service -
March 5th @ 7pm (fpc only)

*Ecumenical Mid-Week Services -
Wednesdays at noon on the following schedule:
- 3/12 - United Lutheran
- 3/19 - First Lutheran
- 3/26 - St. Paul Lutheran
- 4/2 - First Presbyterian (hosting only)
- 4/9 - Christ Episcopal (Pastor Casey Preaching)

*Palm Sunday Service - April 13th @ 10am (FPC only)
*Maundy Thursday Service - April 17th @ 7pm (FPC only)
*Good Friday Service - April 18th @ noon at Christ Episcopal (joint service)
*Easter Sunday Service - April 20th @ 10am (FPC only)

This March, we invite you to engage in the life of our church through service, fellowship, and worship. As we enter the Lenten season, we also look forward to meaningful worship in partnership with our community churches. In addition to our Lenten observances, Pastor Casey has teamed up with other churches in Red Wing to offer ecumenical services during Lent. See the schedule above. Let's come together to uplift, support, and grow in faith!

This Month's Scheduled Meetings:

Mar. 2: Missions Committee
Mar. 3: Christian Ed. Committee
Mar. 4: Deacons
Mar. 11: Finance & Stewardship
Mar. 19: Session

Bible Study
Mondays 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Pastor Casey is leading the bible study

All are welcome!

Sunday School:

4 Sundays per month during adult worship service.

Youth will be dismissed after the "Moment for Youth" during worship to attend.

Adult Education:

Sunday Mornings at 9:00 AM in the Conference Room or Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome and childcare will be available in the nursery.

March 2: Breathe and Rest

March 9: Tithing and Caring

March 16: Letters From Prison

March 23: Cut it Down

March 30: Reconciling Siblings

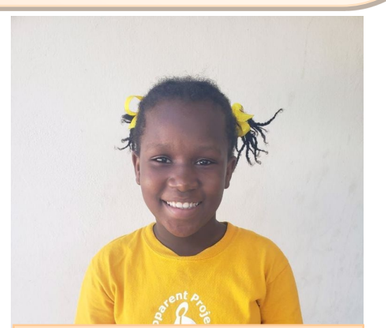
Led by Natasha Yates

Standing with Haiti:
A Mission of Faith and Resilience

We have 12 kids in our 2 year old preschool class this year. Soumise and Nickenson are the teachers. They have both been with ApParent Project for many years.

Our mission with The ApParent Project continues to be a beacon of hope for children and families in Haiti.
The latest update from the school highlights the immense challenges they are facing, including ongoing political unrest, economic instability, and security concerns that have made daily life even more difficult.
Despite these hardships, the school remains dedicated to providing education, meals, and a safe environment for its students and teachers.
Our Missions Committee invites you to keep The ApParent Project in your prayers and consider how we can continue to support their efforts in bringing stability and opportunity to those in need.

This year, our 3rd and 4th grade classes are meeting together. There are currently 12 3rd graders and 7 4th graders. Sonia is their lead teacher and Fabi is her assistant.



Tracy is in 4th grade this year.

Tracy would like to be a doctor when she grows up

Giving & Gathering:
Strengthening Our Church Community!

From the Deacons:
As you know, the Deacons periodically request special donations to assist them in carrying out their work of caring for our congregation. The Deacons have no budget line to draw from and, while they do receive the loose, undesignated cash offerings on communion Sundays, that amount is insufficient to cover the needs that arise from time to time.
We are currently attempting to provide assistance to two families in the church who have been confronted with serious financial difficulties in the face of unfortunate life circumstances. Please note that gifts to the Deacon Fund may not be designated for a specific individual's/family's needs, to avoid tax issues. You can rely on your Deacons to ensure that funds received will go directly to support members of our church when they are financially vulnerable.
Checks to the church should include "Deacon Fund" in the memo line or you can put money in an offering envelope and write the same words on the outside of the envelope.
Thank you so much for helping your fellow congregants in their time of need!

SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH

11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Lunch	**Fellowship Hall**
12:30 p.m. - Talent Show	**Sanctuary**

We'll start off with a delicious lunch of chili and other good foods. (Gluten free options available) A free-will offering will be collected.

By 12:30, we'll gather in the sanctuary for the show.

Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend so that we can plan for food.

Want to participate in the talent show?

We're looking for a wide variety of acts (think America's Got Talent), from singing (solo, small or large group) to dancing, drama to oration to magic to stand-up comedy.

Sign Up Today!

(Church membership not required...no age restrictions)

Our Church community is blessed with opportunities to serve and celebrate together. The Deacons continue their mission of supporting families in need, reminding us of the power of generosity and care within our congregation.
Meanwhile, excitement is building for our upcoming Talent Show on March 9th, where members of all ages will share their unique gifts for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.
Whether through service or celebration, we invite you to take part and make a difference!