



# Pres.Bits

## Happy Birthday

- BONNIE LOHMANN 03/04**
- NANCY BRASCHLER 03/07**
- BEN DULAK 03/08**
- JEAN EGBERT 03/15**
- RICHARD THOMPSON 03/16**
- DARYL FRANKLIN 03/19**
- BARBARA RANKIN 03/20**
- ANNA KOHLNHOFFER 03/23**
- BECKY NORTON 03/27**
- LYNN DULAK 03/31**



Each of our confirmands is matched with a mentor...a wonderful opportunity for intergenerational friendships to blossom. This weekend our mentors showed up to support Abby and Silas in the High School Musical. Thank you, Ian and Nancy!

### **From the Pastor...**

It's been over three months now since I started working with the good people of this church. I don't know whether it feels like just a few days to you or like an eternity, but it has flown by for me and I thought I'd take a few moments to share some of what's been happening, in case you were out of the loop. (Note: the following doesn't include the primary work of transition, which will help to prepare the church to call its next pastor. Read the Transition Team report elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.)

Working together, we have returned to a worship service that looks much like it did pre-lockdown. Of course, there are some differences based on my style and pieces yet to add back in. We are continuing to try and nail down the live-streaming function so that it works consistently and well. Our hope is to master it in the next couple of weeks. Please accept my apologies if you have been unable to participate remotely in worship because of this rockier-than-expected transition to our new equipment.

With the good work of Joan Franklin and Brenda Hendrix, we finally got a new directory out, so you can reach out with greater ease to your fellow congregants. We also recently upgraded our phones, which had been problematic for months, and we are in the process of seeking aid in updating our web site so that it is current and functional.

The Session has decided to return to something like our former committee structure, because we discovered that things were falling through the cracks. We'll keep you up to date on how that looks. Gail and I have started tidying and organizing the office and I've been working on confirming correct policies, procedures, and forms for church use. This is just a partial list, but I wanted you to know that things are happening and it would not be the case if it wasn't for the enthusiastic and faithful work of so many of you. Thank you!

***Pastor Casey***

### **Transition Team Report**

Prepare for an important journey! Your Transition Team is launching the first phase of our intentional transitional process with a survey to the congregation about the church's history and your experience of it. Phase One: Remembering Our Past will provide insight into our shared story. "Knowing where we've been so we can see where we're going..." will help set the foundation for the next steps in our transition. You'll also soon see a large portion of the bulletin board in our Sunday morning fellowship area given over to a timeline of the church. Much like what you did for the church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this will be like a "scrapbook on the wall" and you'll be asked to post things of importance to your own history of the church, like confirmation pictures, wedding bulletins, and the like.

The three members of the Team are: Natasha Yates (serving as a member of Session), Betty Beck and Jake Bjornstad (serving as members at large). We'll continue sharing information in the newsletter as well as on bulletin boards, and via emails and letters. Stay tuned to find out all of the ways you will be able to help our church prepare for its future.



### **CORRESPONDENCE/THANK YOU NOTES**

Each month we are including special greetings, thanks, and other correspondence in our newsletter. Here's a bit of what we've recently received:

Thank you letter for contributors to our new directory:

I am so happy that our updated church directory is ready for distribution. I would like to thank the many church members who worked on our committee, as well as Brenda Hendrix, Gail Kircher, and Pastor Casey. The membership knowledge and directory skills of the committee members, as well as the knowledge and computer skills of Brenda and our staff, have contributed greatly to this directory. This project was a special joy for me, as a new member, enabling me to become better acquainted with our church members and staff.

Enjoy your new directory, and the many cell phone numbers that have made our 2018 directory obsolete!

Joan Franklin

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

As you may know, March is when food shelves in Minnesota hold a special food/cash drive to replenish our shelves. 'Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help stock and support the capacity of nearly 300 food shelves. To date, GMCC (Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches) Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over \$18.5 million dollars via the FoodFund.

At the Red Wing Food Shelf, the number of households coming has increased. Just last month we served 445 households and distributed 23,559 pounds of food. We buy some fresh produce and dairy items locally as well as ordering from Channel 1, our Regional Food Bank twice a month, and we rely on donations to meet our needs.

**The 2023 March Food Share collection dates are February 27-April 9, 2023.** All of our donations are tallied and reported, and 100% of what is donated goes to providing food to our neighbors in need. We also receive a dollar ration of what is collected statewide from the largest corporations like General Mills and Pillsbury.

**Food** may be dropped off any time before April 9. Email us and we will meet you at the food shelf when you drop off your donations or leave them in the bin in the back of the food shelf. **Financial donations** can be mailed to RW Area Food Shelf, 1755 Old West Main St., Red Wing, MN 55066.

We will stop by soon to drop off posters to you and answer any questions you may have.

We are so grateful for your support during these challenging times!

Dee Bender and Brenda Smith  
Red Wing Area Food Shelf  
[brenda0873530@gmail.com](mailto:brenda0873530@gmail.com)

Red Wing Food Shelf phone number: 651-388-9302

## CALENDAR

### Weekly

Sundays 9:00 Adult Education  
Sundays 10:00 Worship Service  
Mondays 10:00 Coffee @ Mandy's  
Wednesday 8:00 Men's Book Club

### Important Dates

**March 1st 6:00 - Youth Night**

**March 1st 7:00 - Choir Practice**

**March 7th 6:30 - Deacons Meeting**

**March 8th 7:00 - Ash Wednesday**

**March 14th 5:00 - Finance Meeting**

**March 15th 6:30 - Session Meeting**

**March 18th 9:00 - 11:00 - Joint Meeting  
of Session and Deacons**

**March 29th 7:00 - Choir Practice**

**March 5th & 19th - Transition Team**

**March 12th & 26th - 11:30-1:00 -  
Confirmation Class**

Sign up sheet for layleader, on Sundays is on the table in the Narthex, or call Gail 651-327-2358. Also, Joan Franklin is always looking help with usher, greeter and coffee.

Hi, my name is Amy Stelpflug, Volunteer Coordinator with Mayo Clinic Hospice. I am reaching out to see if there would be an opportunity for me to present to a group regarding hospice and volunteering. Please connect with me regarding open dates and times. Our hospice territory includes Albert Lea, Austin, Rochester, Red Wing, and the surrounding areas.

You are welcome to include the below statement in any newsletters or communications to community members.

Mayo Clinic Hospice is seeking compassionate and caring volunteers to support the hospice philosophy of care and mission. The role of a Mayo Clinic Hospice Volunteer is very dynamic and will utilize your interests, hobbies, passions, and skills.

Volunteers assist with administrative tasks, provide supportive companionship to patients, and grief support. We also welcome registered pet therapy teams. If you are interested or would like to learn more about all the exciting and diverse volunteer opportunities Mayo Clinic Hospice has to offer, please contact Amy Stelpflug or Pam Roe, Volunteer Coordinators at [mchospicevolteam@mayo.edu](mailto:mchospicevolteam@mayo.edu) or 507-284-4002. Please visit <https://volunteer.mayoclinic.org/> for more information and to submit an application.

Thank you!

**Amy Stelpflug, CTRS, CDP** (she/her)

Volunteer Coordinator

**Mayo Clinic Hospice**

507-284-4002

Fax: 507-284-0220

[stelpflug.amy@mayo.edu](mailto:stelpflug.amy@mayo.edu)

**Mayo Clinic | Mayo Clinic Health System**

[www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org) | <https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/> | **HELP Program**



### Your Church Staff Contact Information

Pastor Casey vanderBent	<a href="mailto:pastorcasey@firstpresbyterianredwing.com">pastorcasey@firstpresbyterianredwing.com</a> 651-327-2355 (nonemergency) 651-491-4997 (emergency)
Gail Kircher – Office Administrator	<a href="mailto:office@firstpresbyterianredwing.com">office@firstpresbyterianredwing.com</a> 651-327-2358
Tom Erickson – Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@firstpresbyterianredwing.com">treasurer@firstpresbyterianredwing.com</a> 651-327-2350
JoAnne McNamara - Organist	
Lynn Dulak – Pianist	
Peter Dulak – Sexton	

### Your Church Elders

Scott Halverson  
Daisy Hofer  
JoAnne McNamara  
David Oakes  
Pam Paulus  
Kai Rodgers  
Dale Wagner  
Natasha Yates  
Brenda Hendrix - Clerk

### Your Church Deacons

Anne Barlass  
Susan Crocker  
Joan Franklin  
Mary Ellen Halverson  
Ernestine Houston  
Bonnie Lohman  
Ruth Misenko  
Bit Skaar  
Nancy Wagner