


The First Epistle



First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established in 1872 • April 2011

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Thank you to all who shoveled snow this winter. You certainly had your fair share of snow to move. The congregation appreciates your willingness to volunteer. 

One Last Chance for Photos for Directory!

Over the next couple of weeks, Ron Johnson will wrap up taking photos for our new church directory that will be published soon. Please call the church office at 233-1192 to schedule your appointment.



April Worship Notes

Sunday, April 10 - Self-Development of People Sunday - we will have the opportunity to meet Newzad Brifki, the director of the Kurdish Youth Association which has recently received a grant from our Synod of Lakes and Prairies and from our Presbytery. He will help us to understand the mission of their organization (KYA) and bring some news about how Kurdish people are living, working and succeeding in our community.

April 21, Maundy Thursday - Let us gather together to celebrate communion at 7:00 p.m. and observe this special day in preparation for Easter.

Easter Sunday-There will be no church school classes on Easter, Sunday, April 24th. Join us for continental breakfast and activities in Fellowship Hall at 9:15 am, prior to our celebration of Easter during the worship service at 10:30 am.

Coming Soon! To our faith community! A new opportunity to share your enthusiasm for life, being together, growing, serving, and inviting others to join the throng....watch for this symbol in future newsletters:



Disaster Relief--Japan Earthquake and Tsunami



This designated account supplements the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering to enable a significant response for relief and disasters in Japan. Your faithful giving is deeply appreciated. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) shall honor the requests of donors concerning the use of their gifts for PDA programs; however, if the need for the funds for that specific project no longer exists, then those funds may be applied to a similar project or need at the discretion of PDA.

How can I give a financial gift?

In disaster situations the most pressing need is money.
Give by check – through First Presbyterian Church – Moorhead, designate: One Great Hour of Sharing.
Give online – make a secure online gift with your credit card for: gamc.pcusa.org/give/DR000117/

Please include the designated giving account number DR000117 on your check to support the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead

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Our mission is to be a caring community of God's people who live by Christ's teachings, reach out to others to share the love of God, and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, thought, and action.

Dorothy Day Food Pantry

We will serve Monday, April 25 at 6:15 p.m. Please consider serving the 4th Monday of each month with your church congregation. It is great fellowship and helps out the pantry in a very important mission. We cannot do it without you!

If you have any questions, please contact Marilynn Woods at 236-9917.



Birthd



Joanne Bale	Apr 1
Evelyn DeJong	Apr 1
Phyllis Dowdell	Apr 1
Karen Dickelman	Apr 5
Elizabeth Swee	Apr 7
Beth Postema	Apr 9
Donald DeJong	Apr 10
Logan Eggiman	Apr 11
Kristin Pennie	Apr 13
Peter Sambo	Apr 14
Kathy Eggiman	Apr 16
Ruth Matthews	Apr 16
Rukhsana Ghauri	Apr 18
Nicholas Kerbaugh	Apr 18
Sidney Zimmerman	Apr 19
Robert Gerke	Apr 20
Bemuse Martinez	Apr 20
Riely Duysen	Apr 23
Kathryn Schnaidt	Apr 24
Mary Skalet	Apr 30
William Woods	Apr 30

Mark Your Calendar –

Vacation Church School

Monday - Thursday, June 6-9, 2011

Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street

On Main Street, kids will be drawn into stories Jesus told about ordinary people in ordinary situations who acted in extraordinary ways! Jesus turned lives upside down and hearts inside out! Vacation Church School for children ages 4 years through grade 5 will meet from 9 am – noon each day. Watch for more information in the May church newsletter! Invite a friend, neighbor, family member! Be sure to join us on Main Street where you can participate in an inside-out, upside down experience like no other and let Jesus make a difference in YOU!



Midweek

As we head into spring and more outdoor activities fill our days, the church takes a break from our weekly meals and fellowship on Wednesday evenings. So don't miss out on the last few weeks of Wednesday evening suppers and fellowship! Join us at church for fellowship and delicious meals at a great price. Supper is \$5.00 per adult/youth and \$2.50 per child and is served at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are not needed. We hope to see you at Midweek!

Even once the suppers end for the year, Confirmation Class will continue to meet at 5:15 – 6:30 pm on Wednesdays; choir and youth group (grades 8-12) will meet at 7 pm.

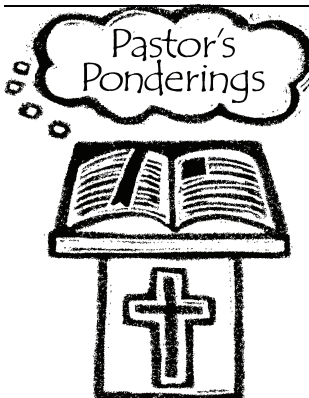
Menus for April

April 6 - Tater tot hot dish, green beans, bread, and dessert.

April 13 - Potluck

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Julie Munsey's friend, Ryan Benz, for making the delicious spaetzle noodles for our German meal last month!

APRIL



There is certainly a lot of bad news around the globe lately. The events in Japan, Libya, Wisconsin, and the looming flood here at home may cause some of us to lose hope. I have even known people to lose faith in God in the midst of crisis. They turn away from God and worship other things when the going gets rough. It brings to mind an old story from the book of Daniel. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were commanded by the king of Babylon to worship the gold image he made. The king threatened them with death in a fiery furnace if they did not obey and bow down to the golden idol. Being good Jewish boys they refused to turn from God and worship an image.

The three men said to the king, "If there is a god who is able to save us from the blazing furnace, it is our God whom we serve; he will deliver us from your majesty's power" (Daniel 3:17). They trust that God will save them. Then comes the interesting passage: "But if not, be it known to your majesty that we shall neither serve your gods nor worship the gold image you have set up" (Daniel 3:18). "But if not!" What devotion! These three men will stay true to their God even if God is not able to save them. This is a mature faith that worships God even though there may be "nothing in it for them." This is a faith that stands even when the world looks terrible. This is a faith that remains when our prayers are not answered as we had hoped, when danger looms, when all seems lost, even when death is certain.

Do I have this faith? I sure want it. Do you? Only you can say. The world is a scary place sometimes. Not all of it, of course. There is still a lot of goodness and beauty, and it usually comes out clear in the midst of crisis. However, the bad news has been overwhelming lately. Yet God abides. Like the three heroes from Daniel, let's stay true to our God in the face of calamity and violence, no matter what happens. For if we worship and adore that which is loving, we become more loving. And, as Burt Bacharach sings, "What the World Needs Now is Love."

God Bless You All,
John

Youth

Younger Youth - grades 4-7

There will only be a few more Sunday youth group times this school year -- April 17, May 1, May 15.

April 17th – Join us for a fun scavenger hunt around the church plus outdoor spring fun! We will meet at the church from 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Church School

During these final weeks of Lent the school-aged children will be exploring more about Jesus and the meaning of his life, especially as reflected in the many events of Holy Week. Each week we will explore one Holy Week event so that when Easter arrives the children might have a more comprehensive understanding of these significant events in the life of Christ and the message that they convey about Christ and about God. A key focus will be on developing an understanding of this question from the "Belonging to God: A First Catechism" -- How did Jesus Christ prove to be our Savior?

Presbytery Youth Retreat

Friday, April 8 - Sunday, April 10
for youth in grades 6 - 12

Let the word of the Christ dwell in you richly... as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Join us for a GREAT weekend! The tradition continues!

Register NOW! Don't miss out -- the youth of our Presbytery will gather for this great weekend of fun, friends and faith at Crystal Springs Camp near Medina, ND. Retreat brochures and registration forms are available in the youth room or on the table outside the sanctuary. Cost is \$75 per person. Financial assistance is available through the Presbytery. Our local church covers the transportation costs. Please return the registration form and payment to Barb Worman NOW! (do not send forms/payment to the Presbytery).

Older youth - grades 8-12

We meet on Wednesdays at 7 - 8:15 p.m. This youth group will continue meeting through mid-May. The last week for Midweek suppers will be April 13th. Confirmation class will continue to meet at 5:15 - 6:30 pm on Wednesdays.

April 6 – Game Night – We didn't get to have our game night in March so join us for some fun, active games (maybe even outdoors, if we get good weather).

April 13 – Volunteer at the Food Bank in Fargo. We'll leave right after supper and plan to be back at church at 8:30 pm.

April 20 – Join us for skating fun at Skateland. Please bring \$5 toward expenses. You may bring your own inline skates, if you wish.

April 27 – Hopefully the flood waters will have receded and we can enjoy the water in a fun way. We'll head over to the motel next door to swim. Bring your swimsuit, towel, water toys – and a friend!

Fish Banks are Back!

Fill your fish bank with your donations to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). These donations will help support three aide & support ministries:

- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Self-Development of People

During church school we will share information about OGHS with the children and youth and encourage them to find creative ways to earn funds for their fish banks. Watch the bulletin for more information about OGHS. Fish banks are available at church school and on the table in the narthex. Please bring your full and heavy fish bank to church on Easter Sunday, April 24th.



News and Events

Financial Update – March 1, 2011

Contributions are strong, 4.34% ahead of budget through two months, reflecting prior year pledge contributions and early payment of pledges for 2011.

Payments of 'per capita' amounts (\$42.40 each member) are also strong, possible reaction to the publicity we have spread about our commitment to the support of Presbyterian Church (USA) through Presbyteries, Synods and General Assembly. Payments have been received representing 85 members, 42% of our 201 members, and we respectfully request response from the remaining 116 members.

Expenses through two months are higher than budgeted amounts reflecting start-up costs for some of our programs and heavy snow-clearing charges.

Contributions to the Capital Fund are ahead of budget for the first time in three years. Thank you all for that.

Tom Dowdell, Finance and Stewardship Committee

Great Days Out

This month Camp Fire USA will be hosting a free activity day for elementary school aged children at our church on Friday, April 23rd (a Moorhead school vacation day). Great Days Out meets from 12:30 to 5:30 pm. To register call Camp Fire at 236-1090.

Summer Fun and Faith at Presbyterian Clearwater Forest (PCF)

Make your plans for summer -- check out the summer camp and retreat opportunities at PCF! There are opportunities for all ages -- elementary, junior high, senior high, families, adults, grandparents. And all types of activities - sailing, kayaking, arts, hiking, high ropes, mountain biking, canoeing, archery, swimming, drama & dance, international games, relaxing and more. Presbyterian Clearwater Forest is located near Brainerd on one of the most beautiful, undeveloped lakes in Minnesota. For more information and camp/retreat registration --- go to www.clearwaterforest.org or pick up a PCF Program Catalog in Fellowship Hall.

Community Outreach Course

On Thursday, May 26, Walt Worman will be presenting a session on Genealogy from 7-8:30 p.m.

Upcoming course topics included:

- Photo 101 for the digital camera
- Jewelry repair
- Lymphodema focus group
- Poetry reading

If you have questions, or other topic ideas, contact Loretta Witkie at 233-0048.



Thank you notes

Thank you for your donation of \$69.50 (Peacemaking Offering) to our Center. We are so thankful for people like you and the help you give.
Karen Braaten, Director, Fargo Recovery Center

Thank you for your donation of \$54 (Evening of Christian Music) to the food pantry. It's because of gracious gifts such as this that allows us to continue our mission of feeding families in need. It's greatly appreciated and truly a blessing!
God Bless, Staff & Guests, Dorothy Day Food Pantry

Thank you for the beautiful flowers that you regularly provide to many residents at The Evergreens. I, my wife and, I'm sure, all the residents are truly appreciative of the flower mission sponsored by your congregation. Again, we say thank you. Dewey & Margie Possehl
(Nancy Herman and her family are responsible for our flower ministry.)

Dear Church Friends, I cried when I opened the envelope with the beautiful "pink" card. Thank you for remembering me. Your words were heartwarming and kind. And thank you for the love and prayers. God has been gracious to me, has answered many of my prayers and He has blessed me with His forgiving love...

With Love to All of You, Jean Dustrud

First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead
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