

First Presbyterian Church

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“Huisbezoek”

A few months ago, I was visiting with a member of our church, Joan Willemstyn, and I was touched that as I was invited into her home, there was coffee ready (which I could use!) and cookies on the table (which I didn't really need!). And as we talked, Joan admitted that she remembered that as a girl in the Dutch Reformed Church it was a big deal when the “dominee” (the Pastor) came to make a visit. In that church such a visit was called the “huisbezoek”--the home visit. Every year the pastor or a team of elders went to visit each of the families in the church. Joan described to me how her parents would nervously prepare for such a visit and how all the children would be dressed in their Sunday best and seated quietly on the couch for the duration of the visit. At that visit the pastor or the elders would be “checking up” on each of the families of the church. “Huisbezoek,” what an interesting idea!

I don't know about you but “checking up” sounds a bit intimidating but it did occur to me that checking in with you by visiting you in your home is a great idea. So I decided to make it my goal to have a visit with every member, every family in our church—my own kind of “huisbezoek.” I'd like to take time to visit with each of you and learn more about you, how you are, what you're thinking/praying about, what the church means in your life and how our mutual ministry as a congregation family is from your perspective. It is my goal that our church be one where everyone feels cared about, everyone knows they are valued, and

everyone knows that they can call on their pastor in times of need. I'm going to be calling you over the next months and trying to arrange a visit with each of you. If preferred we can meet for coffee somewhere instead of your home.

Things we might discuss

- *What can we pray about for you?*
- *Are there ways the church can help you or your family?*
- *Are there things you would like to do with the church?*
- *Are there things you would like to see the church be doing in our community?*
- *How is God working in your life?*

I will begin calls in no particular order. It will likely take the remainder of 2019 to complete these visits. If you would like to meet soon, please call and I will move you to the top of the list!

Grace and Peace,

Mark

April Volunteer Assignments

	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>Nursery Help</u>	
7	Alman	Stafford Zick	Belz Slezak	Lindenberg	<p>April hath put a spirit of youth in everything. <i>Wm. Shakespeare</i></p> <p>April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks Go. <i>Christopher Morley</i></p> <p>The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year. <i>Mark Twain</i></p>
14	Leiter	Coverly R&A Gross	Smith Tower	Lovequist	
21	Slezak	Zick VOLUNTEERS	J Stafford Cooper 1 VOLUNTEER	Smith	
28	Pollock	Irey Jones	Sutherland Vantine	Carisalez	



Serving Communion

Please remember that only ordained elders and deacons should serve communion.

April 7

Mary Lou Cazars
Donna Webb
Jilisa Williams
Jennifer Spengler
George Spengler

May 5

Jean Stafford
Mike Wright
Nancy Wright
George Spengler
Jennifer Spengler

June 2

Carol Thorne
Jerry Wittwer
Lib Wittwer
Brian Young
Teresa Young

*We rely on many members and friends to help Sundays run smoothly and be a good worship experience for those attending our church. **If for some reason you are not able to help on the day originally selected, please find a replacement or someone to trade with, and let the church office know.** The yearly list of volunteers can be found at www.fpcrich.com, under "Living the Faith", then "volunteer schedule". **Or call Julie for a list of names. Thank you!***

April 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00 Care Team 6:00 Grief Group	2 10:00 Connected Threads	3 1:00 PW Meeting	4 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir	5	6 1:00-6:00 GPR and Fireplace Room being used
7 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - Communion	8 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	9 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	10 1:00 Women's Book Club at Sherry's 4:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Session	11 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 Deacons 6:00 Pony Club 7:00 Cub Scouts	12	13
14 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:30 Chancel Choir 9:45 Worship - 2 cents-a-meal 11:00 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group at Westminster	15 9:00 Care Team 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	16 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	17 4:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Cub and Boy Scout Leaders	18 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 <i>Maundy Thursday Service</i> Prayer Vigil throughout the night	19 <i>Good Friday</i>	20
21 <i>Easter</i> 7:00 Sunrise Service 8:00 Potluck 9:45 Worship	22 7:00 Boy Scouts <i>Office Closed</i>	23 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	24 9:30 Flower Group in GPR	25 9:00 Bible Study 4:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 Pony Club 7:00 Cub Pack Mtg.	26	27
28 <i>Earth Day</i> 8:30 Chancel Choir Youth Group at Westminster worship 9:45 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 2:00 CROPwalk	29 10:30 Office Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	30 7:00 & 8:00 Men's Breakfasts at Liz's 10:00-8:00 Rummage Setup 10:00 Connected Threads 6:00 Girl Scouts	May 1 10:00-8:00 Rummage Setup 1:00 PW 4:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Endowment Meeting	May 2 9:00 Bible Study 10:00-8:00 Rummage Setup 4:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Cub Scouts	May 3 9:00-3:00 & 5:00-7:00 RUMMAGE SALE	May 4 9:00-11:30 RUMMAGE SALE



Presbyterian Women

*PW meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m.
at Wanda Clawson's home, 1507 W. Gull Lake Dr. Richland.
The next meeting is **April 3rd**. **EVERY WOMAN** is welcome.
If you'd like information or need to carpool, call Kalli Inman, 998-3497*

NEW PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S TREASURER WANTED

Have you always wanted to participate in the life of Presbyterian Women, but just weren't sure how?

After June, we'll have an opening for the Treasurer's position.

For more information about what the job entails, please contact Kalli Inman, 998-3497.



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB



We'll be meeting at Sherry Kleckner's home, 126 S. Lake Doster, on April 10 at 1:00.

The book of discussion is "News Of The World" by Paulette Jiles.

If you've never been to our discussion group, we'd love to have you!

Dear church friends and choir ~

Thank you so very much for all the lovely birthday cards, flowers, and well-wishes you gave me on celebrating of achieving my 90th birthday. You only "hit" 90 once in your life! I can hardly believe it myself and my life seems to go by so quickly. My mother, who played the organ for 30 years in the church, started me in kindergarten when I was 3 years old. I have now been singing in the choir for 75 years. How much longer! The good Lord has guided me all these years and I put my trust in Him and try to do His will. I serve Him until he calls me home.

The reception you gave me was very nice and a special thank you for everything!

Lois Martin



PW PURPOSE: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Presbyterian Women Minutes

March 6, 2019

Present: Nancy Lynch, Kalli Inman, Pam Foster

Kalli opened the meeting with prayer.

The Least Coin container was shared.

The minutes from our last meeting were shared and approved.

Old Business

Two thank yous were received from the \$1,500 donation to the Independent Living Plus program at Samaritas. The handwritten note from Rachel Sykes, was added to the PW board in the Gull Prairie Room.

Pam emailed Cindi Lebiecki and Jean Kubiak/Mission Committee Elders, to ask their permission to welcome a representative from Samaritas to share volunteer opportunities during our coffee and conversation time.

Pam and Barb Langshaw met at First Third Bank to have Pam's name added to the PW account as a secondary individual.

Get well cards were signed and mailed to Evelyn Cramer and Wanda Clawson.

New Business

Kalli shared Ed Schaadt's response to her Gull Lake Food Pack Program inquiry. The program definitely could use a donation from PW and Ed's email outlined the need and contact info. Given that there were only three of us present, it was tabled until the April meeting for further discussion.

PW birthday offering is May 5th. This is a collection and donation by our congregation in honor of PW.

We discussed possibly meeting every other month instead of once a month and if we should change the meeting time to evening instead of 1 pm to allow working people to attend. We tabled this also for further discussion in April.

Who might host the PW church picnic this summer?

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 3, at 1 pm – location TBD.

Respectfully submitted: Pam Foster, Secretary

IT'S TIME!!
Open up the attic,
break thru the basement ...



RUMMAGE SALE!!!



As a place to unload your unwanted (but still good) items, don't forget our Rummage Sale, which will take place



May 3rd, 9 to 3 and 5 to 7, and May 4th, 9 to 11:30.

Set up is Monday evening, May 1st, and your contributions can be brought any day after that, through Thursday! The sign-up sheet for workers will be posted on the bulletin board in the Gull Prairie Room on the PW section.



We'll need people to sort and price all week. The sale begins Friday morning, so we need salespeople here at 8:30 a.m. to greet our line-up of customers. On Friday evening and Saturday morning, the cost for whatever can be stuffed into a grocery bag, is \$2 and \$1, respectively.

A crew of workers can come in about 11:00 Saturday morning to help dismantle the sale and pack up the unsold goods (we really need help with this part).



SET-UP AND BRING IN TIMES:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday ~ 10 to 5 & 6 to 8

PLEASE: No TV's - No Computer Screens -
- No Car Seats - No Sofabeds



Presbyterian Women ~ Birthday Offering

May 5th



In 1922, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary (PCUS), it was decided that an offering should be made for a definite cause. That year, Hallie Paxson Winsborough, superintendent of women's work, visited Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Kochi, Japan. She challenged members of the Woman's Auxiliary to give one penny for each year of their lives (or a dollar if a woman preferred not to reveal her age) as a birthday gift to the school. The tradition continued when the Woman's Auxiliary became Presbyterian Women (PCUSA) in 1988. The offerings have enabled a long succession of new and often innovative mission projects throughout the world.

While the projects and donation amounts have changed, Presbyterian Women's commitment to improving the lives of others has not. We continue to need broad, consistent support from Presbyterian women, men and others in the area in order to continue funding mission projects like the ones selected for 2019.

Disaster Response Team

Presbytery of Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina

The Disaster Response Team of the Presbytery of Charlotte will expand its ministry to support people affected by human-made or natural disasters. PW's grant will help provide a warehouse, parking lot and security fencing. This new space will hold household goods, food, hygiene, and school kits, and clean-up buckets, and will house mobile shower units and disaster recovery trailers.

Effingham Child Development Center

Inclusive Playground, Effingham, Illinois

In a child's early years inclusive play environments set the tone for successful future relationships. The Effingham Child Development Center serves children and families of differing abilities and is paving the way for all kids to learn and play together. The Birthday Offering will improve the center's playground by helping to provide a protective play surface and all-inclusive play equipment.

Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky, Inc.

Good Shepherd Community Nursing Center, Phelps, Kentucky

Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky cares for people who are sick, poor, lonely or vulnerable due to infirmities of age and poor health. This project will improve the quality of life and safety for nursing center residents in the Appalachian region of Eastern Kentucky. PW's grant will help provide new wardrobes, bedside cabinets, over-bed tables, nursing beds, mattresses and lift recliners.

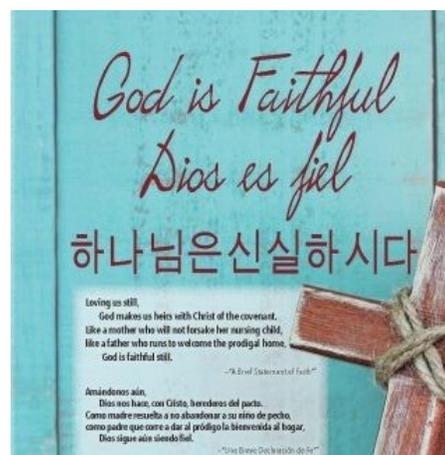
Wings of Refuge

Restoration Home, Iowa Falls, Iowa

Wings of Refuge provides a safe and healing space for women victimized by human trafficking. Without safety and shelter, there is little healing. PW's Birthday Offering grant will help fund a larger long-term safe home where many more women will find restoration, identity, community, opportunity and hope, and transition into independent living.

Please give as you have been blessed and support these life-changing projects. We will receive the PW Birthday Offering in church, on **May 5th**. An offering envelope will be in the bulletin that day, and also in the May Missive. Or leave your gift on Julie's desk, marked Birthday Offering. Thank you!

God is Faithful



MONEY MATTERS

February income was \$41K, compared to expenditures of \$22K. This has provided a boost to the cash position in our General (operating) Fund, however, it is important to note that quarter-to-date income included several full year pledges, which obviously will not recur in future periods. While January and February giving was strong, we are seeing a significant slowing in March. **On an annualized basis, we are now projecting close to break-even for 2019**, which would leave the 2018 deficit (\$24K) to carry forward to 2020.

Per Capita giving has been steady, with roughly 111 of our 293 members (38%) submitting their Per Capita apportionment of \$32.20 per member. This means that the church is currently responsible for the balance of roughly \$5,850. When making your Per Capita contribution, if you are able to **“round up”** or **“double up”** to cover another member of the church that would be extremely helpful!

Fund balances at the close of January are:



FINANCE FAQ!

We have received several questions regarding whether giving can be designated for specific operating (General Fund) expense items (for example, paying utilities bills) or committees (for example, Membership and Fellowship). The short answer is “yes.” **The complete answer includes a very big “however.”** Designating your General Fund donation to specific operating expense items or committees not only adds complexity to an already-complex income recognition and financial recording/reporting process, it also results in an understatement of both income and expense. This can create problems when analyzing current year spending vs. budget as well as when calculating subsequent years’ budgets. So while you “can” designate your pledge to specific operating expense items or committees, we respectfully request that you simply give to the General Fund, and trust Session to manage the budget allocation.

Questions? Comments? Contact Sandy Carahaly, Elder, Finance Committee.

Youth Group



Youth Group Schedule

March 31/April 7 - NO Youth Group (spring break)

April 14 - Westminster hosts, 5-7pm

April 21 - NO Youth Group (Easter)

April 28 – Morning worship @ Westminster, then head downtown for the CROP Walk

May 5 - WE host, 5-7pm

May 12 - NO Youth Group (Mother's Day)

May 19 – **Youth Sunday @ Richland in AM**, Pine Island Garden, 5-7pm

May 26 - NO Youth Group (Memorial Day)

June 1-2 - KIDS IN BOXES / Last Youth Group

An update from Meredith:

What is Faith Formation and why is it so important?

*“Faith formation is more than a subject to be taught –
it is an invitation to a way of life.”*

- Joe Paprocki

- ❖ Faith Formation is Christian Education on steroids - 24/7, 365 days a year, lifelong.
- ❖ Faith Formation is equipping people to live as disciples of Jesus – at home, at work, in the community, in the world.
- ❖ Faith Formation seeks to develop an understanding of the Bible and our faith traditions while deepening our spiritual practices.
- ❖ Faith Formation reinforces that church is not just what happens within the four walls on Sunday morning.
- ❖ Faith Formation has *people at the center*. Not the programs.
- ❖ Faith Formation challenges us to find more “on ramps” for people in their faith. How can we live our faith after we leave church on Sunday morning?
- ❖ Faith Formation builds on strengths we already have as individuals and as a community of faith. Engaging all ages...every day...for life.
- ❖ Faith Formation meets people where they are instead of creating one-size-fits-all programs.
- ❖ Faith Formation establishes our intergenerational relationships as a core value while maintaining age-specific ministries. The greatest asset we have in our faith formation is to rely upon the strengths of one another. There is no program that will ever take the place of the relationships we have with one another and the learning we share within our community of faith.

In the book *Generations Together*, John Roberto describes Faith Formation as something that “informs, forms and transforms the person...into a robust, vital and life-giving Christian faith that is holistic: a way of the head, the heart, and the hands.”

***Yet, O Lord, you are our God;
we are the clay, you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.*** - Isaiah 64:8

*Join us for an intergenerational
Walk Through Holy Week*



*Palm Sunday, April 14,
immediately following worship*

*Come make the journey with us from
Palm Sunday to Easter*

All ages welcome

SAVE THE DATE: Youth Sunday is May 19!

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

April 14, 9:45 Service

11:00 Walk Through Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Service

April 18, 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Vigil throughout the night

Community Good Friday Services

St. Ann's 1:00 p.m.

St. Timothy's 6:30 p.m.

gracespring 7:00 p.m.

Methodist 7:00 p.m.

Yorkville 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service

April 21, 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast hosted by the Deacons

8:00 a.m. in the GPR

Easter Service

April 21, 9:45 a.m.



Bring a breakfast dish to pass and make sure to find your way to the Gull Prairie Room following the Sunrise service. We have our annual Easter breakfast, hosted by the Deacons. Just bring something to share and they'll do the rest!

MissionS

One Great Hour of Sharing



For many years Richland Presbyterians have helped to fill the world with love by donating to
One Great Hour of Sharing.

Through our offerings, our church has a long tradition of helping children and adults around the world. Many projects are funded through

One Great Hour of Sharing,

a program in existence for over 50 years. Every year millions of Christians from many denominations show their love through donations to assist in feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and offering peace and hope to people in distress.

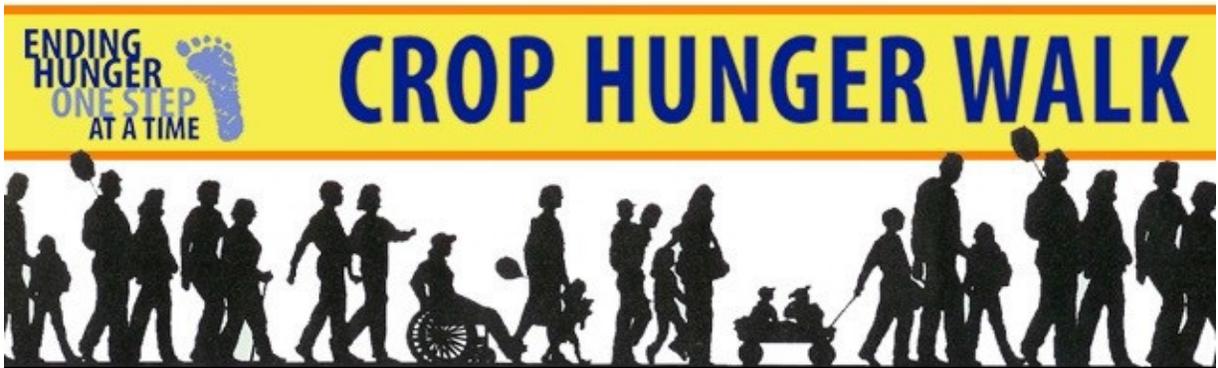
Human needs as simple as safe drinking water are made available to areas where the water supply is a threat to life and health. Refugees are offered basic needs such as food, shelter, and medical care in times of disaster and dislocation from their homes. The funds also provide many kinds of education, including literacy classes, agricultural and vocational training.

Please join other Presbyterians and Christians in sharing the support of these essential programs and by helping to fill the world with love. This year April 21st is the Sunday designated for the annual support of this most valuable program. Prayerfully consider your stewardship offerings and include

One Great Hour of Sharing

as a part of your contributions this year. An envelope has been provided in this newsletter, and one will be available during worship on the 21st for your convenience. Thank you.

Your Mission Committee



The 44th Annual Kalamazoo Valley CROP Hunger Walk

**Sunday, April 28th at Bronson Park.
Registration begins at 1 pm with the walk starting at 2 pm.**

Ecumenical Senior Center, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes,
Open Doors Kalamazoo and YWCA Kalamazoo, Domestic Assault Shelter
are local agencies aided by the money raised.

Further information available by visiting <http://www.kalamazooocropwalk.org/>

Donations may be made online at
[Cynthia 's Fundraising Page at Kalamazoo Valley CROP Hunger Walk](#)

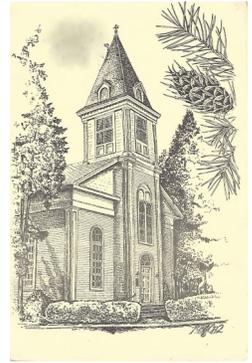
If the Youth Group raises at least \$250 in pledges to Crop Walk, an additional \$250 will be given to Crop Walk by Matching Donors!!

There will also be a Crop Walk Donation Table in the Gull Prairie Room after
Worship on Sunday April 8, 15, 22, and 29th.

Please contact Cindi Lebiecki at 269-365-3115 or cdoo258@sbcglobal.net with
questions.



Carillon Hymns and Honoree's for April



<i>Date</i>	<i>Selection</i>	<i>Honoree</i>
4/13	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	<i>Jay R. Wells, Jr.</i>
4/17	<i>What a Friend We Have In Jesus</i>	<i>James E. Garn</i>
4/30	<i>Faith of Our Father's</i>	<i>Robert Murphy</i>

**FOOD
PANTRY
CORNER**



**FOOD PANTRY
Giving Suggestions**

Tuna, Soup
(no tomato or creams)

Remembrance Flowers



The Altar Guild is once again offering an opportunity for you to remember someone or something dear to you by ordering one potted flower per household (multiple names can be given for one plant) which will be used to help create an environment of praise and thanksgiving in our church on Easter Sunday. Your remembrance will be noted in the bulletin and you are free to take any plant with you after the worship service.

The price per plant is \$10.00. The orders must be in no later than **APRIL 14th.**
Orders may be given to Julie in the office. Thank you for participating!

Your Name _____

Person(s) or event being remembered _____

April Birthdays



Jay Hoorn	1	Scott MacRitchie	21
Claire Stupica	2	Karalea Rothenberg Jasiak	21
Julie Howard	3	Phyllis Leiter	22
Aaron LaLonde	3	David McConnell	22
Stephanie Wank	3	Sarah Nott	22
Kay Hutchinson	4	Lily Thomas	22
Robert Monk	4	Gail Venner	22
Ken Barts	5	Nancy Wright	22
Rob Carpenter	5	Rick Wynsma	22
Kalli Inman	5	Liam MacRitchie	23
Heather Moseley	5	Jacqueline Brignall	24
Charlotte Slezak	5	Caelan Deater	25
Jennifer Spengler	5	Zoe Gobble	26
Sara Wieber	5	Will McWhorter	26
Jason Courtney	6	Brendan Hope	27
Gary Schott	7	John Meyer	27
Irissa Wyckoff	7	Linda Pollock	27
Margaret Hetzel	8	Paul Reinhart	27
Sharon Rothenberg	8	Sophia Carahaly	29
Evelyn Cramer	9	Elle Gay	30
Tyler Moseley	9	Tom Kendall	30
Katie Welser	9	Kelene Monk Rogers	30
CJ Hoorn	10	Matt Pausch	30
Rob Kubiak	10		
Emily Myland Walters	11		
Jacob Woll	11		
Corey Connell Thompson	12		
Emma Gay	12		
Michelle Greve	12		
Jacob White	12		
Barb Fox	13		
Nancy Lynch	13		
Nathan Schrauben	13		
Tim Brundage	14		
Mary Ellen Bryer	14		
Zip Fiordalis	15		
George Lindenberg	15		
Judy Bakker	16		
Christy Connell	16		
Molly Danielssen	16		
Karen Kendall	17		
John Urban	17		
Steve Allen	18		
Sheldon Putt	19		
Ronda Schaadt	20		
Beth Carrington	21		



& Anniversaries

- 3 Phyllis & Fred Davis ~ 43
- 4 Kalli & Steve Inman ~ 32
- 5 Larry & Sue Myland ~ 44
- 10 Marilyn & Bob Steely ~ 37
- 12 Allen & Jennifer Stupica ~ 34
- 16 Deng & Mary Alier ~ 4
- 21 Jane and Bob Morrow ~ 36
- 23 Byron and Carol Hodgson ~ 3
- 25 Deb & Mark Fisher ~ 32



First Presbyterian Church
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, *Pastor*
Gretchen Ferris, *Treasurer*
Brandy Dlugoss, *Financial Secretary*
Larry Myland, *Director of Music*
Branden Burris, *Director of Choirs*
Meredith Alspach, *Director of Faith Formation*
Heather Putt, *Nursery Supervisor*
Connie Slater, *Sexton*
Julie Pixley, *Administrative Secretary*

