

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY, 2018**

Pastor's Ponderings:

Greenfield First Presbyterian Church is a wonderful community of folks God has called to encourage each other on our faith journey together. God has created small churches like ours for the people. Jesus called his disciples by inviting them to follow him and then spent time building relationships with them while ministering to other people along their journey together. People experience community as part of a small church and then get the opportunity to serve, grow in faith, and learn to use their God-given gifts. The presence of First Presbyterian church offers hope and a sense of God as part of our neighborhood. Our session has recently approved another generous use for our fellowship hall. We will be sharing our warm building with those who have no shelter from the cold. One night per week if the temperature falls below 20 degrees, Salvation Army trained volunteers will open our basement space as a warming center from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

February 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:00 p.m. we will host another congregational conversation exploring our future. Community leaders in several areas and Rev. Shelly Wood our Presbytery liaison to the Commission in Ministry will join with us as we seek new possibilities for our church facility and our ministry to Greenfield. Everyone is encouraged to come be part of our prayerful exploration as we seek God's will and guidance for our ministry. Please continue to pray and listen carefully for God's direction

and be willing to share and encourage one another.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> this year. There will not be an Ash Wednesday service this year, but a service of darkness will be held Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. March 29<sup>th</sup>. On Easter morning we will hold our sunrise service in Riley Park and our traditional worship at 10:30. Easter breakfast will be available between services at church April 1<sup>st</sup>. (No Foolin') If you would like to share a faith story about what church means to you during worship or join the choir or offer a musical solo during Lent, please let Pastor Ann know as she plans this holy season.

We are planning a six week Lenten study on heaven, the resurrection, and the mission of the church called *Surprised by Hope* written by N.T. Wright. Many Christians believe our future in heaven is all that really matters. But that's not what the Bible teaches. In this six-session video Bible study, premier Bible scholar N. T. Wright brings you inside the Scriptures to grasp the full, breathtaking hope Jesus offers the world, and its impact on your life today.

Gain an exciting new vision for your life on earth in light of your future in heaven. Wonderful as is the promise of heaven, a glorious hereafter is just part of what salvation is. What about today? Jesus called his followers the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Your life here and now is of tremendous consequence, and what you believe about the future has a direct impact

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on how you live in the present. In six transforming, faith-inspiring video sessions, premiere biblical scholar N. T. Wright opens your eyes to the amazing full scope of what God's Word has to say about the world to come and the world that is. If you would like to join this study please contact Pastor Ann to set the best evening to meet and order books if you need one.

In Christ, Pastor Ann

**Per Capita**

All Presbyterian churches are billed by Presbytery a Per Capita Tax for each member the local churches have on their roles. This money is used to support Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. This year the Per Capita is **\$39.05**. Members are asked to make a contribution of this amount per member to ease the financial burden on our church.

**Offerings**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Amount</u>
01/07	12	\$ 895.00
01/14	-	-
01/21	24	878.34
01/28	20	<u>375.00</u>
	Total	\$2,148.34



- 02/10 Katherine Harper
- 02/14 Dennis Smith
- 02/15 Salli Williams
- 02/20 Dennis Whitson
- 02/25 Eric Hersberger

**ANNIVERSARIES**

No Anniversaries



- 02/02 Groundhog's Day
- 02/04 Congregational Brunch 1:30-3pm**
- 02/14 Ash Wednesday**  
Valentine's Day
- 02/18 Annual Meeting**
- 02/19 President's Day
- 02/21 Session Meeting 7pm**
- 02/26 Newsletter Deadline

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A young man was praying and he asked God, "What is a million years to you?" God said, "A million years to me is like a second to you." Then the man asked, "What is a million dollars to you?" God said, "A million dollars to me is like a penny to you." So the man asked, "Can you give me a penny?" God replied, "Just a second."

Knew a man who read all the time. He especially liked health news. However, one day he was complaining about all the food that was bad for you to eat; like sugar, etc. He looked far away as if in thought, "I have the perfect New Year's resolution! I'll stop reading!"

*From "Just Like Jesus" by Max Lucado*

'The plain fact is we don't like the truth. Most of us can sympathize with the fellow who received a call from his wife just as she was about to fly home from Europe:'

"How's my cat?" she asked.

"Dead."

"Oh, honey, don't be so honest. Why didn't you break the news to me slowly? You've ruined my trip."

"What do you mean?"

"You could have told me he was on the roof. And when I called you from Paris, you could have told me he was acting sluggish. Then when I called from London, you could have said he was sick, and when I called you from New York, you could have said he was

at the vet. Then, when I arrived home, you could have said he was dead."

The husband had never been exposed to such protocol but was willing to learn. "OK" he said. "I'll do better next time."

"By the way", she asked, "how's Mom?" There was a long silence, then he replied, "Uh, she's on the roof."

"Our actions on the keyboard of earth trigger hammers on the piano strings of heaven."

**Faith Is**



***Faith is looking beyond what is and trusting what will be.***

***It is believing that all things are in the midst of impossibilities.***

***Faith is taking small steps knowing they lead to bigger ones.***

***Faith is saying yes when everything else says no.***

***It is the presence of light in darkness, The presence of God in all.***

*Ellen M. Cuomo*