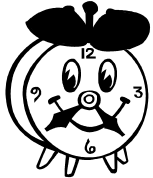


COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
702 Sheyenne St., P.O. 546, West Fargo, ND 58078 701-282-4135 E-mail: office@cpcwf.org Web: http://cpcwf.org

SPRING FORWARD

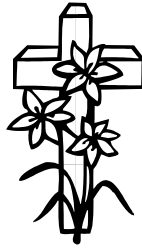


Don't be alarmed, but Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, April 2. Please remember to set your clocks forward one hour.

EASTER PROGRAMS

Celebrate the Lord with us in these April events:

On Palm Sunday, April 9, we'll begin our worship with palms and singing as we worship the King of Kings. Also, for a special treat, don't miss the Cuddle-Ups Baked Goods Sale in the narthex.



Join us again on Maundy Thursday, April 13, when we will gather together at 7 p.m. for a Tennebrae service including the observance of the Lord's Supper.

The church will be filled with activity on Easter, April 15, starting with a Sunrise service sponsored by Soul Train at 8:00 a.m., followed by a light breakfast served in the fellowship hall. Worshipers are encouraged to stay for the 10:00 a.m. service where we will rejoice in God's victory over sin and death.

PASTOR'S PEN



Of all the words that have ever been associated with Presbyterian worship, I'm guessing that "dramatic" has not been one of the most frequently encountered. While this may be true, I think it is safe to say that we will prove to be the exception to that rule in our worship life over Holy Week this year. We will observe this highest of all special seasons for the Church in four "acts," which, taken together, will comprise a complete and sacred

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drama. To whet your appetite (and hopefully convince you to join us for all four "acts"), I offer this little preview.

Act 1: Palm Sunday. The highest, most joyous moment in Jesus' earthly ministry was, no doubt, his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. In a parade that was crammed full of symbolic references to King David and to the well-known prophecies of the coming Messiah of Israel, Jesus was lauded by the adoring crowds as King of Israel, the promised son of David come to rule over God's people and rescue them from the oppression of Rome. Their cries of "Hosanna," which we will hear echoed through our service on Palm Sunday by children, the choir, and the congregation, reflect this hope of rescue: "Save us, please!" is a good translation of the Hebrew word.

Act 2: Maundy Thursday. After the highest of highs, the lowest of lows. On Maundy Thursday, we commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, by celebrating Communion, and his death by crucifixion on the next day. The service centers on a group reading of the Passion story, in which we all come to realize that it was for us and by us that Jesus was killed. We also observe the ancient practice of *Tennebrae*, in which the candles that light the sanctuary are dimmed as the story of Jesus' Passion proceeds, until, at the moment of his death, all is as dark as the tomb in which he was lain. Just as Jesus was gone from the world for three days, fully experiencing death and hell for us, the sanctuary remains fully dark and silent, the Bible closed, through Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Act 3: "Sonrise". At 8:00 on Easter morning, the Soul Train youth group will lead us in a service of celebration and

rejoicing as the veils are torn down and light returns again to the sanctuary, just as the Light of the world burst forth from death and the grave on the first Easter morning. We will greet our risen Lord with song and prayer, and the youth will present a special dramatic (there's that word again!) interpretation of the Scriptures. Following this service, we will all break our Easter fast with a light meal served in the fellowship hall.

Act 4: Easter Sunday. With bells, singing, and the Rising Spirit motion choir, we will culminate our celebration of Christ's resurrection and victory over the powers of sin and death. This is the day of all days for Christians, honoring the most important event in all of time and history. As the Word is read and proclaimed, as prayers and praise are offered, we will gladly join in the refrain of the Church in all times and places: "Christ is Risen—He is Risen Indeed!"

Like anything else, drama can be overdone. It would not be fitting to elevate the urge for the dramatic so far that a service of worship becomes a performance, a spectator event. But, when we have to do with the great, cosmic story of salvation, of Jesus' seeming defeat and stunning victory, I think it is right and proper that we embrace the drama. Christ is Risen!

(you know the rest)

NEW IMPROVED SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Apr. 2	Memorization Sunday
Apr. 16	Easter *No Sunday School*
May 14	Memorization Sunday
May 21	Carnival ***Last Day of Sunday School***





MARCH CLERK'S CORNER

On February 26th the Congregation held a special meeting to consider items regarding Project Open Door. The congregation was informed that the cost of the project would be \$694,825. By adding air conditioning and roofing for the sanctuary the total would come to 729,600. Resources available to the church include cash received, pledges from the membership, and the 450,000 loan from PCUSA PILP which would amount to \$741,000.

A contingency fund of 5% of the total cost is an absolute necessity for any overruns in costs. This amount would be \$34,741. A total of \$25,080 is still needed to reach this amount.

The congregation passed a resolution supporting the terms of the loan with the addition of a 60 day option to add air conditioning and a 90 day addition to add roofing for the sanctuary.

On February 28th, the Session held a special meeting to consider the resolution passed by the congregation in regard to Project Open Door and to make a decision on whether or not to go ahead with the project with the terms as presented.

Andrew Thostenson reported the action taken by the congregation. A motion to sign the contracts for the loan in the amount of \$450,000 and to approve the building contracts with a 60 day option for adding air conditioning and a 90 day option for adding roofing for the sanctuary was passed.

The motion also included instructing the Task Force to explore ways to borrow money from the members of the congregation if needed so that the church would have an additional \$50,000 for

more contingency if needed. The Session voted to instruct the Trustees, as officers of the corporation, to render all necessary aid and assistance that is needed to close the loan. Plans are underway for a ground breaking ceremony.

On March 15 the Session and Trustees met for their regular meeting. Andrew Thostenson explained that the PCUSA PILP requires signatures from a majority of the trustees or persons designated by them to close on the loan. The Trustees voted to have Steve Hanna and Delores Horn sign the papers because some of the trustees would not be available to sign the papers on a week day.

The request from Andrew and Janine Steele to have their son, Jaden Thomas, baptized on March 26 was approved. A request from the Presbyterian Women was approved to publish a cookbook with proceeds going to Project Open Door. This is tentatively scheduled to be published by early fall. The plans call for selling them at the bazaar, at West Acres Cookbook Sale, plus individual sales.

The youth group was given permission to sell greeting cards with the proceeds going to the youth fund for activities. The Cuddle-Up group will have a bulletin insert to inform the congregation about Project Linus. They will have a display in the narthex and will provide special envelopes for contributions.

David Ruhnke reported that a fund raising brunch sponsored by Timberlodge Steakhouse and the employer of Dave's daughter, Brenda Witt, will be held on April 23 at the Steakhouse for Brenda's husband, Gary, who has cancer. This is a Sunday event and church members are urged to attend or to contribute to the fund. More information will be forthcoming.

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Lowell Wiese reported that the open forum meeting regarding personnel evaluations was well attended. He is in the process of reorganizing the Personnel Committee and getting information from the presbytery to help it in evaluating the paid employees of the church.

A change was made in the remuneration schedule for the organist. She will now be paid \$75 for playing for church services, \$85 to play for Sunday worship and for the choir and/or special music, and \$100 for Sunday Worship, choir or special music and playing during Sunday School.

A handbook for Presbyterians and a brochure about the Presbyterian Church will be used to acquaint persons visiting our church with the Presbyterian denomination. Pastor Stith also requested that elders and members of the church wear their name tags so visitors can be identified and can talk to members about the church. Anyone who does not have a name tag should let Delores Horn know, so that one can be ordered for them.

The Christian Education Committee informed the Session that there is a Youth Retreat near Jamestown on March 31 to April 2nd. They will fund the \$60 required for the first 8 youth who apply.

The Men's Rummage Sale on April 8th was approved with the proceeds going to Project Open Door.

The Clerk reported that 107 persons were served communion on March 5.

The funeral for Robert Duggan was held on February 29 with burial to be at Page, ND. Robert died on February 22nd. The Duggan family donated the memorial money they received to Pro-

ject Open Door.

Erika Rose Matzke was baptized on February 26 and Rose Katherine Gellner was baptized on March 5th.

A total of \$133.52 was collected in the Penny Jar for the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center.

**29TH ANNUAL NEW LIFE
CENTER PRAYER
BREAKFAST
AND EVENING DESSERT**



The 29th Annual New Life Center Prayer Breakfast and the Evening Dessert will be held on Thursday, April 20th at the Fargo Holiday Inn and Conference Center.

Jan Dravecky, co-founder of Outreach of Hope Ministry, and wife of baseball legend and amputee Dave Dravecky, will be the speaker at both events.

Tickets are \$15 for the breakfast and \$8 for the dessert and will be available after February 16th. Reservations are required. Call Reta Gage at 239-0428 for ticket information.

To learn more about Jan Dravecky, visit her website, www.OutreachOfHope.org.



**FISHING FOR ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING**

Are you feeding your "fishes" every week? It's amazing how many coins we can dig out of our pockets or purses every night. What better place to put them but in your fish! Remember to bring your fish back on Palm Sunday, April 9. There will be a container in church to put them in. Also there are envelopes in the pews for you to donate to One Great Hour of Sharing. This money goes all over the world for those in need to build wells, medical problems, and food needs. Thanks for your help!



PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Once again this year the men of the church are providing us with an opportunity to be rid of those treasures that are no longer needed or wanted by donating them to this worthwhile fund raiser. The Community Wide Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, April 8th, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale will be held at the Veterans Memorial Arena located adjacent to the West Fargo High School on 7th Ave and 9th St.

All donated items can be brought to the sale starting Friday, April 7, from 12 to 8 p.m. Items can be brought to the south entrance of the arena which is accessed from 10th Ave (delivery entrance to the High School). We will accept almost anything that is saleable. No live animals please.

For those unable to deliver items you can call either the church 282-4135 or 282-4942, and someone will pick them up on Friday.

All proceeds from the sale will go toward Project Open Door.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The newly forming Personnel Committee is seeking help. You can be instrumental in fulfilling needs, helping with concerns, and setting goals for our church. This committee is likely to meet three to four times per year.

If you have a desire, expertise, or knowledge of personnel matters, please apply.

For more information, contact Lowell Wiese.

Home phone: 701-282-7898

Cell phone: 701-866-7428

E-mail: LOWI58078@AOL.COM



TEEN MOM MISSION RESULTS

How many ways can we say thank you for continuing to donate for missions? In February, you showed your love by donating 58 bottles of lotions, shampoos, and soaps, besides some diapers and wipes! You are great to help us go over our goals each month!



CAUTION: FLYING DIRT AHEAD!

With our loan with PCUSA successfully closed and the bids by the contractors signed, it's only a matter of time before building begins. Look out for details about a groundbreaking ceremony in the very near future!

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH DIRECTOR(S) NEEDED

We at the CPC are very blessed to have many wonderful young people who want to spend time with one another on an extra evening or afternoon at the church. And our numbers are growing. What started as a small youth group is now bursting at the seams. When Soul Train started, about 10 youth attended. Now it is not uncommon for 25 youth to be at the church on a Sunday night. Next year, this number could go up to 30.

It is time to split the group in two. We need another director or director team to take the senior high youth starting this fall. This (or these) person(s) would be able to start some new programming with the senior high, but also occasionally coordinate with Becky De-Jong and Lisa Steffen, who will be directing the middle school youth.

Don't wait too long to consider yourself for this position. Give Boots Misheski a call right now.



CALLING ALL COOKS

The Presbyterian Women are publishing a cookbook with the proceeds to go the Project Open Door. All members of the church are asked to contribute recipes (as many as you wish) to be included in the book. Please place your recipes in the basket in the narthex.

Recipes can be for any type of dish. Main dishes and dishes that are easy and quick to prepare are especially needed. We have a lot of working parents in our congregation, and they would appreciate meals that can be prepared quickly.

In addition to many good cooks, we have a great many who appreciate good food in our congregation. Is there a particular dish you would like to eat again and again? Maybe you know someone who makes the best lasagna ever. Why not ask for the recipe now? Put your request in the basket, and we'll try to get it in the cookbook.

The goal of the committee is to have the book published in time for the Fall Bazaar and the West Acres Cookbook Sale. Members will be asked to estimate how many cookbooks they would likely buy so that we can know how many to have published.

The books will have a laminated cover and will be spirally bound so that they will be easy to leave open when in use, and the cover should not tear easily.

These will make great gifts. It has been over 20 years since the last church cookbook was published.

ANNUAL EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA



All eager egg hunters, pre-school - 5th grade, are invited to come to the annual Easter Eggstravaganza at the church on Sunday, April 9th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. There will be fun, food, games, activities, and the all-exciting egg hunt. Please sign up in the narthex so that the Easter Bunny knows that you are coming.

Attention: All Easter Bunny helpers. The Easter bunny would appreciate the donation of wrapped candy to be given to the kids at the Easter Eggstravaganza. He would like the candy any time before Sunday, April 2nd. Have a 'Hoppy' Easter!

SPRING BRUNCH



The Presbyterian Women's Spring Brunch will be held on Saturday, April 29th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The brunch will be hosted by the Afternoon Circle.

Plans are to have the Junior Hand Bell Choir play, the Junior Choir sing. Rae Kercher will present a program on her recent trip to Africa. She has many items that she brought back from Africa and will have them displayed at the brunch.

A freewill offering will be taken to help defray the cost of the meal. Everyone, old and young, male and female, in the church is invited to attend. You are also welcome to bring guests.

A sign-up poster will soon be in the narthex, so that you can indicate if you are planning to attend. We would appreciate your response so that sufficient food can be prepared.



APRIL DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 4-1 Susan Gross
- 4-2 Becky DeJong
Molly Nelson
- 4-5 Trinity Jaszkwiaak
Veril Larson
- 4-6 Josh Corneliussen
Brent Talley
- 4-8 Hazel Yokom
- 4-10 Dustin Richard
- 4-13 Jon Whitcomb
Krista Whitcomb
Leah Whitcomb
- 4-14 Cathy Birrenkott
- 4-16 Bryan Riedinger
- 4-18 Kathy LaCoe
- 4-19 Beverly Montgomery
Mandi Montgomery
- 4-20 Ruby Hendrickson
Lynn Hummel
- 4-22 Kaylee VanCleve
- 4-23 Zaryn Hansen
- 4-25 Audrey Binger
- 4-26 Kevin Bruse
Debra Olson
- 4-27 Emma DeJong
Andrew Thostenson
- 4-28 Lorna Wilkinson
- 4-30 Delbert Jenner
Carolyn Talley

ANNIVERSARIES

- 4-2-77 – Greg and Carol Sterup
- 4-3-54 – Bill and Beverly Montgomery
- 4-9-88 – Dwight and Lisa Steffen
- 4-12-95 – David and Nancy Stedman
- 4-13-68 – Denny and Carol Braaten
- 4-21-79 – Larry and Vicki Peihl
- 4-27-02 – Jon and LeAnn Carlson
- 4-27-02 - Craig and Dixie Pederson
- 4-30-66 – Larry and Uneva Dobrinz

SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE



- Mar. 30 - April 2 - Presbytery Retreat in Jamestown - details TBA
- Apr. 9 - 2:00-4:00 - Eggstravaganza - dinner following the Eggs
- Apr. 16 - Easter Sunrise Service - details TBA
- Apr. 22/23 - *Saturday - Mission Day and Sleepover - details TBA
- Apr. 30 - 6:30-8:30 - dinner and golf competitions
- May 7 - 6:30-8:30 - dinner and golf competitions continued
- May 14 - 6:30-8:30 - Mother's Day Dinner
- May 21 - SS Carnival - final Soul Train outing



SECOND ANNUAL FARGO MARATHON

Our church has been given the privilege of manning the Mile 22 aid station at the Fargo Marathon on May 20 this year. The good news is that's about a mile north of where we were last year (on Elm Street). The bad news is that we won't see our first runner until 10:10 (if it is Alberto Salazar in his prime) or, more likely about 10:20 or later (but we WILL be there much, much earlier!!). At least the snow will have stopped for the day.

We have shirts plus goodie bags for 30 volunteers, so we should handily outnumber the runners when they come by. Details to come much later, but start rounding up people, shirt sizes, banners, and let me know. We will have prizes for the last water and ERG people that lose feeling in their fingers this year. Here we go!

Regards, Dixon Moorhead



**ARE YOU A SHEEP
OR A GOAT?
God is watching us!**

Have you read Matt. 25:31-46 lately? Will the Son of Man put you on his right with the sheep or on the left with the goats? The sheep will enter the kingdom of heaven. Why? "I was hungry or thirsty or homeless and you helped me." The goats did not feed or water or help and were banished to the fires.

Of course we all want to be sheep, but sometimes we aren't sure where to start. Here is your chance! The congregational care committee is reorganizing and needs your help. We need a list of people willing to give others rides to church. You could offer to do it once, once a month, or as often as you can. Let Lee Dobrinz or Jim Johnson know if you want to be on this list.

We need a list of people who would like to take a meal to someone who is laid up. When we call, you would be free to say yes or no. But we don't know who all the great cooks are in the church without being told! Let Brenda Bjorklund or Vicki Peihl know if you want to be on the list! (Even less than best cooks may apply!)

We need to hear if someone needs meals, rides to church, or prayers. If someone is in the hospital or is shut-in at home, but would like visitors, let us know by putting a note in the offering plate or in the box that will be set up in the narthex. It will be kept confidential if you want. Or you can contact the church, Jim Johnson, Lee Dobrinz, or Dixon Moorhead to let them know of a need.

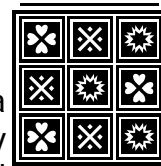
Maybe you want to ease into this giving slowly. Well, every third Saturday of the month you can go to the Salvation Army to help serve a meal. Ask Dixon

Moorhead for the time to be there.

We want everyone to be "sheep" and follow our Shepherd into the kingdom of heaven!

P.O.D. FUNDRAISER

The quilters have made a beautiful quilt for which they are selling raffle tickets. All proceeds will go to Project Open Door. CPC members are asked to contact Carol Sterup to obtain books of tickets to sell to EVERYONE as part of the fundraising for the new building addition.



If you have sold tickets, please quickly return the monies and ticket stubs to Carol and pick up some more to sell. Carol will be available Sundays at coffee time after church. Volunteers are also needed for ticket sales during the church rummage sale on April 8.

Things are going well, folks! At this time, 500 tickets have been taken to be sold. Let's make it higher. Thanks for all your hard work! Every bit will help.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
MUSIC DIRECTOR(S) NEEDED**

The Christian Education Committee is looking for a new Sunday School music director for next fall. This position can be filled by one person or by a team. Musical training is not required. A love for God, children, and music is.

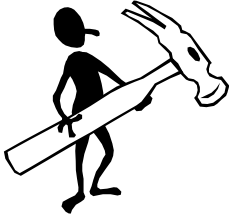
Interested? Please contact Melanie Hanson or Boots Misheski.



**ATTENTION:
FLEECE SAVERS**

The Soul Train will be making blankets for PATH on the weekend of April 22 and 23. We need two yard pieces of fleece to do this. If you have any fleece scraps this size and would like to donate them for this project we would appreciate it.

Thanks, Lisa and Becky



APRIL PROJECT OPEN DOOR REPORT

A flurry of activity has been happening mostly behind the scenes during March. But that activity will begin to shift to involve the whole church as construction approaches.

First, a little history, in February the Session called a special meeting of the membership regarding POD. The meeting commenced on the 26th where the membership was brought up to speed on financing issues. The membership voted to support the terms of the PCUSA's loan to partially underwrite the project. The last day of February, the Session voted unanimously to proceed with closing the loan with the PCUSA, signing construction contracts, soliciting additional gifts/pledges for the project, and asking the POD committee to explore member financing options as well.

To date, we closed the loan on the 21st of March, and we locked in our interest rate of 5.7%. The construction contracts should be signed by the last week of March. The contractors have asked for a formal pre-construction consultation with representatives of our church and our architect to be held on May 3rd. They indicated that they will not move on site until the second half of May. The last half of May was chosen as this is the earliest time they feel confident that the ground will be stable to handle their equipment without causing excessive damage to our landscape and parking lots.

Also, on March 21st, the design committee met to brainstorm the various questions and issues that will inevitably arise

with construction. They did not come to any conclusions, but here is a laundry list of what they are considering:

- Have sidewalk in place to the south-east entrance of education wing
- Material storage placement in parking lot
- Will damage to parking lot be repaired
- Tree and marker should be moved
- Cleanup at the end of week for services on Sunday
- West parking lot re-seal prior to construction
- Assurance of all construction openings be sealed
- Kitchen outside entrance closing is at the end of the construction phase
- Obtain copies of blueprints
- Time window to have a "Ground Breaking Ceremony"
- Renew permit to park on 7th Ave.
- Proper storage or removal of Day Care material and equipment.
- Water drainage from South side of education wing (sump water)
- Involvement of ADA for handicap issues
- Possible temporary ramp for handicapped when construction progress allows
- Sunday services probably will not have to be moved
- Consider holding other Services in alternate location (Moorhead First Pres.)

These issues and plenty more will be taken up during April, so we can be ready to sort through them at our May 3rd consultation.

Finally, April will be an important month for members to follow through with financial commitments. So far, the re-

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sponse from the February appeal has been good. Week by week members have stepped up to the plate with contributions and several have indicated a willingness to also loan monies to the church. This is all very encouraging. We should be optimistic that we will be able to put away sufficient funds for contingencies and also be able to exercise the options for roofing and cooling the sanctuary.

Please continue to pray for God's wisdom and encouragement so that we may act with confidence.

**CUDDLE-UP BAKE SALE**

Get your taste buds, tastiest recipes, and baking pans ready. On April 9, Palm Sunday, there will be a baked goods sale. All proceeds will benefit CPC's Cuddle-Up mission.

The Cuddle-Ups program is refocusing its efforts to reach as many needy children as possible. In so doing we have joined forces with the Linus Project who will distribute our Cuddle-Ups to the local hospitals, fire and police departments, and PATH. We will continue to supply Cass County Social Services foster children on our own.

Interested in supporting this cause? Please bring your baked items to sell or your appetites and pocketbooks to the narthex.

Also, watch for a hanging Cuddle-Up in the back of the sanctuary displaying envelopes for your contributions.

**SEARCHING FOR TREASURE?**

Ahoy, to all you treasure hunters out there! I just wanted to warn you that starting on Sunday evening, June 11th, this place will be full of those, just like you, grown-ups and children, alike, who seek treasure. That's when Treasure Cove Vacation Bible School will be coming to Community Presbyterian Church.

There will be worship, fun, and fellowship as we search for lost gems and discover the riches of Christ. Teens and grown-ups can help with skits, Bible lessons, games, crafts, snacks, and shepherding groups. Kids can eat, play, listen, and learn. No one will go home without finding something to treasure.

So, mark your calendars for the evenings of June 11 through 15 and watch for volunteer sign-up and registration sheets along with supply wish lists in the narthex. Or call Melanie Hansen at 526-3317.

See you there!

THANK YOU!

To my fellow church members I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers and support that we have received during Gary's illness and recovery. The gift certificates have come in handy in providing our family with meals.

Thanks again, Brenda and Gary Witt

AFTERNOON CIRCLE

The Afternoon Circle will hold their April Meeting at Bethany Towers II hosted by Judy McLeod. Circle will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11.

Please use the door on the west side. The address for Bethany Towers is 201 South University Drive. However, the west entrance is on 14th Street.