

**PASTOR'S  
PONDERINGS**

By  
Pastor Gordy  
Pennertz  
First Presbyterian  
Church

Verse for February: *"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4: 6*



Dear friends,

Our Book of Order tells us that we are called to salvation and service. Jesus has done all that is needed for salvation. In response, we serve by sharing the grace and love of Jesus with the world. The Christian Community committee has a new way for us to share the love of Christ with those who may be lonely and somewhat isolated.

We are reaching out to the residents at Ecumen to be what we are calling "Pen-Pals." Dawn Doty, director of activities there will connect those of us who sign up with residents she knows who do not have a lot of contacts; family or otherwise. We will send notes, cards for special occasions, you can visit, you can find ways to touch their lives. This is not about church or recruiting members or converting anybody. This is all about relationships. Our faith journey begins with a relationship with Jesus. That relationship calls us to reach out to others. This is a way to touch someone's life, to fulfill that call to service and to share the love we've been shown. You don't need any special skills or talents or even mobility; just connect through letters. Please consider signing up, or let Gordy or Rosie know you are interested. Share the peace of Christ!

In Christ's peace,

Pastor Gordy

Pastor Gordy's hours: Tuesday and Thursdays 3-5 PM

He can be reached at 320-221-0489 (cell) 320-693-3437 (home)

Church: 320-693-3548



**FEBRUARY: 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Micah 6:1-8 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

**9<sup>th</sup>:** Isaiah 58:1-12 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

**16<sup>th</sup>:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

**23<sup>rd</sup>:** Exodus 24:12-18 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

(22<sup>nd</sup>) Pastor Gordy





**FEBRUARY:**

2<sup>ND</sup>: SUPER BOWL!

3<sup>RD</sup>: 9 am HOLY HUMOR COMMITTEE MTG

10 AM: PW-CT MTG

4<sup>TH</sup>: BIBLE STUDY 10 AM AT ECUMEN CHAPEL

5-8<sup>TH</sup>: PASTOR GORDY AND JULIE RAE WILL BE IN MESA VISITING CHRISTA

10<sup>TH</sup>: 9 AM 150<sup>TH</sup> MTG AT PENNERTZ'S

11<sup>TH</sup>: BIBLE STUDY @ ECUMEN CHAPEL

15<sup>th</sup>: Presbytery meeting at Redwood Falls

17<sup>TH</sup>: PRESIDENT'S DAY QUILTERS MTG 7 PM

18<sup>TH</sup>: 8:30 AM HOST LAMA MTG

10 AM BIBLE STUDY AT ECUMEN CHAPEL

11 AM HOST MAM MTG

20<sup>TH</sup>: 7 PM SASSG

23<sup>RD</sup>: GAME DAY AFTERNOON. WE WILL BE PLAYING CRIBBAGE

24<sup>TH</sup>: 4 PM MARY-MARTHA CIRCLE: DEB HOLMES HOSTESS

25<sup>TH</sup>: 10 AM BIBLE STUDY AT ECUMEN CHAPEL

26<sup>th</sup>: 11:30 SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE FEED AT CHURCH! NOTICE DATE!!!

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL



tacklehunger.org

Our confirmation class (well, Kennedy) once again participated in the national campaign to tackle hunger—the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Thank you to all who contributed! The food was delivered to the food shelf and we took in 162 pounds and \$120!! Please know that you have helped someone in need.



Our Bible verse for the month comes from ReNae Olson. ReNae said she likes how it stresses the importance of praying at all times, not just when we need something from God. We can bow and give thanks anytime and all the time.

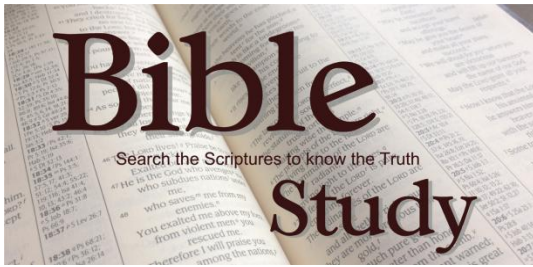
**Sexual Assault Survivor Support Group**

A Confidential support group for survivors of sexual assault meets the third Thursday of every month at First Presbyterian Church of Litchfield. The next meeting will be Jan16th. We have business cards and posters to share with someone you may know who would benefit from this group. It is a safe place to talk with those who understand and are available for support and to just listen. Meetings are at 7:00 PM.

In the United States,  
**1 in 3 women**  
 and  
**1 in 6 men**  
 are survivors of sexual violence.

JOYFULHEARTFOUNDATION.ORG/LEARN





**Bible Study:**

Our current Bible Study is on the Gospel of Luke. We are taking a chapter by chapter look at Luke's story of the Savior. We meet Tuesday mornings at 10:00 in the Bethany chapel. Please join us!



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM MET ON JAN 5TH 2020. PRESENT WERE JULIE RAY, JAYNE, DARLENE AND ROSIE. ABSENT WERE SHIRLEY AND HARRIET. ROSIE OPENED WITH A PRAYER. THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORTS WERE READ AND APPROVED. OUR NEW BALANCE IN THE TREASURY IS \$1798.44

FOR THE BAKE SALE IN DECEMBER WE MADE \$275.00

GIFTS OF WOMEN WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 8TH. JULIE RAE WILL WORK WITH AMY LEVINSKI AND JUDY HOLMES ON THE PROGRAM FOCUSING ON THE HISTORY OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN, ESPECIALLY OUR CHURCH'S.

CLEANING DAY IS ON MARCH 2nd AT 10:00 AND THEN LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 12:00 NOON FOR THOSE WHO COME TO CLEAN THAT DAY. MARK YOUR CALENDARS! THIS INCLUDES MEN AS WE NEED SOME EXTRA MUSCLE AS WELL!

EVERYONE IS ASKED TO MAKE THEIR MISSION PROJECTS AND RETURN TO JULIE RAE. WE WOULD LIKE THEM ALL FINISHED BEFORE MID-MAY SO THE SCHOOLS AND NURSING HOMES CAN GET THEM. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE ASK JULIE RAE.

Rosie Graphenteen chair/secretary



**Game Day:** Sunday afternoon, January 19 we enjoyed home-made soup made by Pastor Gordy and then had 12 people play 500. The top winners were Pastor

Gordy and his sister Marian, but the prize winners were Scott Rech, Sharon Kotzer and Franklin Rech. Bringing up the bottom was Don Mackay, who played for his first time and actually played very well. Mark your calendars for February's game day on the 23<sup>rd</sup> when we will be playing cribbage once again! If anyone wants a refresher course, come in on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> between 3 and 5 PM



## WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

Per capita is an annual per member apportionment assessed by the General Assembly (Book of Order, G-3.0106), and by many synods and presbyteries, to enable Presbyterians mutually and equitably to share the ecclesiastical and administrative costs of sustaining our witness to Christ through the Presbyterian Church (USA). We commit to pay this and ask that each member pay this to help cover our budget for the year. **The per capita for 2020 is \$42.00 per member.** Thank you for considering this.

 WORSHIP/CHRISTIAN ED NEWS!

Worship Committee

Worship and Education committee meeting was held  
January 6 at 10:30 AM.

Committee Members Present: Jayne Ackman, Rosie Graphenteen, Julie Rae Pennertz, Gordy Pennertz, Amy Levinski; chair

W/E meeting was opened with prayer. Sanctuary duties for the first quarter were decided: January: Julie, February: Rosie, March: Jayne, April: Amy. The committee member list was reviewed and the committee decided to ask Mary Crosbie if she would like to be on the committee.

Worship events of note were discussed for the present quarter: Ash Wednesday and Lenten services, Palm Sunday, Resurrection Sunday, and Holy Humor. Additionally, the committee discussed the previous quarter worship events of note: October worship service at Ecumen, Thanksgiving Eve service at Ecumen, Advent, Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve services.

This committee discussed live streaming Gordy's sermon's via social media. Julie Rae stated she would record the first sermon to be streamed over the church's Facebook page. The coming year's budget was reviewed. Sunday School/Education update: Adult Sunday school was reported to be going well. Confirmation was discussed and suggestion for confirmation to continue as Confirmand is out of state via Skype or other media tele call was discussed as a possible option. Possible confirmation/youth trip to see Ken Davis; comedian, was discussed as well. Bible Study is wrapping up and a new study will begin.

Upcoming meetings: February 3 9:00 AM--planning Holy Humor Sunday  
March 9 9:00 AM--Holy Humor planning and map out of second quarter worship events.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Levinski

Elder and Deacon Training: Thanks to all who participated in our training session for 2020. Know that we appreciate your willingness to serve and to give up most of a Saturday to learn and plan and worship and pray!





**Special guest at Presbytery:** Everyone is welcome to join us to hear one of our General assembly co-moderators speak at the February Presbytery meeting. "Will

You Be My Neighbor" by Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri, GA Co-Moderator will be presented at the Stated Presbytery meeting in Redwood Falls Saturday, February 15. Let Pastor Gordy know if you'd like to go. We don't always get the opportunity to hear an international speaker so close to us. Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri is a teacher and a Presbyterian Ruling Elder. A life-long Presbyterian, she considers serving as a Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) to the 205th General Assembly (1993) a pivotal experience in understanding for the first time the scope of being a connectional church. Vilmarie was ordained as a ruling elder at the Iglesia Presbiteriana en Caparra Terrace, San Juan, Puerto Rico. At a professional level, Vilmarie holds a B.A. in Education (English as a Second Language) from the University of Puerto Rico and a Master's in Education (Curriculum and Teaching) from Turabo University. Dedicating most of her adult life to education, teaching high schoolers and adults, she began her teaching experience as a Sunday School teacher. In 2011, Vilmarie and her husband, Rev. José Manuel Capella-Pratts, moved from San Juan, Puerto Rico to Miami, Florida, where he is the pastor of First Spanish Presbyterian Church. Since moving to Miami, Vilmarie has taught ESL to adult students from all over the world in a language school in Miami. An organizer at heart, she loves arts and crafts, decorating and...Christmas! Vilmarie also enjoys spending time with friends and family relaxing over a good cup of Puerto Rican coffee.

**DEACONS MEETING:** The Deacons met on Saturday, January 25, 2020. Present were Barbara Bremseth, Rosie Graphenteen, Stephanie Rech, ReNae Olson, Beverly Driver, Darlene Kotelnicki, and Pastor Gordy.

Rosie was re-elected moderator and Bev Driver secretary. The Deacon handout explaining duties was gone over.

- 1) Set up communion
- 2) Help with serving home communions
- 3) Visit and bring a carnation to patients in the hospital
- 4) Rose for altar for baptism
- 5) Change paraments as needed
- 6) Arrange transportation as needed.

We scheduled the Noisy Can offering collections as follows:

March 15: Flowers pf Mercy

June 14: Food Shelf

September 20: LAMP Kinship

The Hat and Mitten Tree will be in November once again

Deacon's Fund for 2020 is \$500

Quarterly meetings are scheduled for April 5, August 2, and October 4.

Secretary Beverly Driver



designed by creazilla.com



SHIRLEY BROOKS  
C/O KINGSLEY SHORES  
16880 KLAMTH TRAIL  
# 216

LAKEVILLE, MN 55044    PHONE: 1-952-435-5098

We wish her the best in her new phase of life and want her to know how much she is loved and will be missed. Blessings, Shirley!



WINGS facility for youth is in need of the following items.  
Combs brushes shampoo conditioner hair picks  
Deodorant socks (for boys and girls) Tampons body wash  
A donation box is in the Memorial Room



**NOTICE!** Shrove Tuesday pancake feed has been changed to the next day, **ASH WEDNESDAY** at 11:30 AM! Mark your calendars!



Come and join us on the 4th Monday of the month as we study the Ten Commandments, or "Ten Words". For February we meet on Monday, February 24th at 4 PM with Deb Holmes as hostess. We will be studying the 4th lesson. (March 23: open    April 27: Judy    May 18: Jayne)



If you or a family member is in the hospital, contact the Deacon of the month. Do you need a ride? Contact the Deacon of the Month. Here's the schedule for the year:

Feb: Rosie (320-221-2082)    March: Darlene(320-535-0034)

April: Darlene

Lent: Rosie    Easter: ReNae (320-310-5637)    May: Bev

(320-221-4464)

June: Barb (320-693-2445)    July: Rosie    August: Stephanie (507-317-7650)

Sept: ReNae    Oct: Bev    Nov: Barb Dec: Stephanie    Christmas Eve: Stephanie

January: Darlene

## FEBRUARY PRAYER LIST

- 1-Tom & Ruth Townsend
- 2-Philip & Lezetha Waldron
- 3-Kay Hanson & Tim Lane
- 4-Christa & Jacob Joseph & Colton
- 5-Roger Landers
- 6-Heidi & Richard Pennertz  
Ariel, William, Viola,  
Rebekah, Conor and Lorlei
- 7-Cicily & Stephanie Savoy
- 8-Truman Stehr
- 9-Ann Abramson
- 10-Don & Jayne Ackman
- 11-Ryan Ackman
- 12-Dwight Barriek
- 13-Joel Barriek
- 14-Susan & Mortie Berg
- 15-Presbytery
- 16-Carol Blunt
- 17-Barbara Bremseth
- 18-Shirley Brooks
- 19-Dennis & Melva Burnette
- 20-Roger & Mary Crosbie  
Mariah and Katie
- 21-Beverly Driver
- 22-Bruce & Shirley Good
- 23-Rosie Graphentzen
- 24-Greg & Karen Heath
- 25-Deb Holmes & Michael
- 26-Judy Holmes
- 27-Doug & Laurie Johnson
- 28-Harriet Koelln
- 29-Adam & Darlene  
Kotelnicki

## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

### "Loving Others"

As a teacher teaches best by sparking curiosity, so a friend encourages best by kindling self-worth. Recently a dear friend was talking with me about her struggles to realize her self-worth. "The other day I thought of you and another friend who have affirmed me for so many years," she said, "believing in me even when I didn't honor my own opinions and feelings, and making me feel special when I didn't place much value on myself. I know where that kind of love comes from and I know that in time I'll get better at it too." What a privilege God has given us to love one another! When the apostle Paul instructed us to observe whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy (Phil. 4:8) he handed us a delightful set of tools to carve self-worth into the lives of others. As we see and affirm these positive qualities in our friends and family, they begin to see the source of all that is true and excellent and praiseworthy. And soon they begin praising their loving Creator by becoming all that HE meant for them to be!

"You yourselves have been taught by God to love each other." 1 Thessalonians 4:9