

THE HERALD



From the Pastor:

March 2018

A group of high school LGBTQIA students have been looking for a place to gather periodically. Some representatives of that group met with the session and, after some discussion, session decided to allow the group to meet in our fellowship hall. (Like we do with all outside groups, there are some rules that the group must follow.) The session sincerely believed this was a way for Heritage Church to extend God's hospitality and to provide these youth with a safe and welcoming place to gather. On March 3, 5:30 to 8:30 PM, they will have a soup supper for a fundraiser in fellowship hall. I hope you come and support them.

Dr. Mark Achtemeier will be joining us on the weekend of March 17 and 18. Dr. Mark Achtemeier is a Presbyterian writer, minister and theologian. After beginning his ministry as a conservative Christian activist who fought against LGBT inclusion, he experienced a change of heart that has led to his playing a prominent role in recent years in helping the Presbyterian Church (USA) become more open and accepting toward LGBT Christians. Mark will share some of the story of his transformation when he joins us on March 17th, at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. On the following day, Sunday, March 18 he will be preaching at our morning worship.

Mark's story is presented in more detail in his 2014 book, titled *The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage*, which tells the uncommon story of how a pastor with a high regard for the authority of Scripture could come to believe, through years of careful study, that traditionally negative Christian attitudes toward homosexuality are the result of long-standing misinterpretations of the Bible. Even more striking, he now believes that a persuasive biblical case can be made to support same-sex marriage. Copies of his book will be available for purchase at the event.

In addition to his work on sexuality issues, Mark has traveled widely as a conference speaker, he has served as an official representative of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in both ecumenical and interfaith dialogues. Mark taught theology and ethics for fifteen years at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and has served pastorates in Virginia, North Carolina and Iowa. A native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Mark holds degrees from Harvard College, Union Presbyterian Seminary and Duke University. He currently resides in Dubuque with his wife Kat, also a Presbyterian minister, and together they have three grown children and three grandchildren, with an additional grandchild on the way in July.

On Sunday, March 25, Bryce Wiebe will be our guest preacher. Bryce is manager of Special Offerings for the Presbyterian Mission Agency. As manager of Special Offerings, Wiebe leads a four-member staff responsible for promoting the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s four Special Offerings and the causes they support. The four offerings include One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy. Following the worship, there will be a pot-luck dinner in Fellowship Hall, where Wiebe will give an informal presentation on the ministry of the four special offerings.

Wiebe is a Nebraska native, earning a bachelor of arts in music and business administration from Hastings College and a master of divinity degree from Yale Divinity School.

I hope you will join us for these events.

“That’s Not My Job:”

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.



MARCH BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

04 Linda Clark
 07 Celeste Sexton
 09 Melinda Brage
 12 Zachary Werner
 14 Adriana Miller
 16 Karen Minks
 22 Ron Miller
 27 Maya Jack
 27 Sydney Miller
 29 Patty Kouba
 29 Jeff Pierce
 30 Robert Hill

BEST CHOICE



ONGOING YOUTH FUNDRAISERS PLEASE SAVE BEST CHOICE UPCs AND USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES

We have received our Bonus Certificate for which we will receive an additional \$30 with our next redemption. We currently have 1,503 labels which will be submitted for redemption when we have collected 2,000 Best Choice UPC labels. Thanks to all who continue to support this program which provides financial assistance to our youth program.

****Labels for Education program will end in May 2018. We will discontinue collecting these after spring.**

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries in March



Please notify the church office if your birthday or anniversary was incorrect so we can make the necessary changes.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle will meet March. 6 at 10:00 AM in the Gibson Room. We invite all women to join, even if you have not attended before.

HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB

Congratulations to new Heritage Birthday Club Members: Bruce Hunzeker, Sue Nelson, George Neill



Consider renewing or joining Heritage's Birthday Club. Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) are made to our endowment fund.

THANK YOU!

I so appreciate the Heritage families that came out to sing with me at Bryan West while David was there. Scott, Wade, Belle, Katrina, Pris, Ramona, Patty and Kay, everyone sang beautifully!
 -Lisa Nielsen

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE FOR EASTER!



Easter is right around the corner, so stop by our Coffee Corner to pick up a bag of delicious Fair Trade Chocolate. Coffee, Tea and Olive Oil is also available. Make sure to stop by each week as we currently have a couple discounted items.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT



Please join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt that will take place on Saturday, March 24 (Saturday before Palm Sunday) at 11:00 AM. There will be a hotdog lunch with chips, cookies, and drinks immediately following. We are accepting any wrapped candy donations that you may have for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please put your donations in the Church Office.

PER CAPITA FOR 2018 IS \$40.00 PER MEMBER

Per Capita helps support the regional, national, and global ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Many members contribute their per capita in addition to their general giving. This greatly helps us to meet our budget. Thank you for your partnership in spreading the gospel.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."
 Donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring were collected on Sunday, February 4, 2018. Thank you to everyone who gave, as we were able to collect \$207.37. This money will be donated to the Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach Center.

WINTER WEATHER POLICY



Please check:

<http://www.kfornow.com/weather-closings/> or local TV stations to see if Worship will be cancelled due to inclement weather. They will have information by 8:00 AM Sundays.



GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

*"You shall be called
repairers of the breach"*

(Isaiah 58). Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts:

- assist Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to work within communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters;
- help the Presbyterian Hunger Program take action to alleviate hunger and its systemic causes, and helps create access to healthy food for entire communities; and
- allow the Self-Development of People to partner with people and communities with tools for development and education to alleviate poverty, oppression, and injustice.

With our support, OHGS will continue to be a reminder that through the simple act of sharing, we are blessed and experience God's abundance in surprising ways. Please help the mission committee reach our goal of \$600.00. Thank you to all who give!

LENTEN CHALLENGE

Thanks to all who attended the Ash Wednesday pancake supper. \$139 was donated and will be forwarded to the Eastridge Food Pantry.

The remaining Lenten Challenge is to donate at least one non-perishable food item during Lent. Let's help fill the shelves at the pantry! We are asking everyone to "give up" one food item during Lent – one food item to help the hungry in our community!

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE

We will be having Worship March 29 at 7:00 PM for Maundy Thursday and March 30 at 7:00 PM for Good Friday. There will be Communion at the Maundy Thursday Worship.

RANDOLPH SCHOOL BACKPACK PROGRAM

We are asking for help to provide 16 backpacks of food to Randolph School to be distributed just prior to spring break -- we need at least 16 sets of:

- 1 box of cereal
- 4 pkgs of Ramen noodles
- 1 can of soup
- 1 pkg of pudding
- 1 can of fruit

Please bring donations to the church by March 4 for delivery later that week.

EASTER LILIES



Lilies are such a beautiful addition to the Sanctuary on Easter morning. If you have not already filled out an order form, we hope you will consider ordering one or more plants in memory or in honor of someone special in your life. Oak Creek Plants & Flowers are providing the plants, and the cost

per plant will be \$9.25. Your check for the total number of plants ordered should be made payable to Heritage Presbyterian Church, and indicate that it is for Easter lilies. You can either place your order form and check in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or mail it to the church office. Deadline for ordering is **Monday, March 26, 2018**. Please call the Church office (402-477-3401) or Karen Minks (402-304-3934) if you have any questions.

ALL COMMITTEE CHAIR MEETING

Pastor Ray will be retiring shortly and we, as a church, need to plan to minimize any complications resulting from his retirement. The Session, along with seeking an interim pastor, has asked that we meet with all the committee chairs for the church to plan for the changes necessitated by Pastor Ray's absence. Church members and the committees of the church are going to need to pitch in and help with some of the Pastoral duties and necessary church tasks during the transition. With that in mind, we have scheduled a meeting of all the chairpersons of the various church committees for Monday, March 5, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gibson room at the church, so that we can discuss Pastor Ray's retirement and how our committees can help in making the transition to a new pastor as smooth as possible. Please make plans to attend. Thanks.

Sincerely;

Leanne Miller, Scott Helvie, Session elders

LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

March 4 – Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 11 – Number 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22, Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 18 – Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12, Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 25 – Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

SAVE THESE DATES

April 1: Easter Sunday Worship & Communion

April 7: Church Spring Cleaning Day at 9:00 AM

April 21: DUC's retreat in Ashland, NE

May 20: DUCs Movie Outing (tentative)

July 22-27: Synod School at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

Don't forget to spring ahead! Daylight Saving Time begins March 11.

THE HERALD

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The Rev. Dr. Raymond Meester, Pastor

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**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**

Items received after

March 26, 2018

may not be included
in April Herald