



Worship SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|------|---|---------------------|
| 2/4 | Matthew 4:1-11
Jesus' Attraction Factor
Communion
Annual Meeting | Rev. Dan Birchfield |
| 2/11 | Mark 1:29-39
Jesus Stayed Spiritually Connected and Directed | Rev. Dan Birchfield |
| 2/18 | John 4:1-41
Jesus Shattered the Stereotype of Us and Them | Rev. Dan Birchfield |
| 2/25 | Matthew 9:9-13
Jesus Liked People, and Drew Out the Best in Them | Rev. Dan Birchfield |

Prayer REQUESTS

Debra Vanderveen,
Becky Bell
Luke Carpenter
Avis Martin
Brenda and Bill
Sidney, Sr.
Matthew Marshall,
Knop's grandson
Shirley Cotant
Pearl Stutz
Carl and Mary
Belson
Jace, John
Resseguie's
grandson

In Memoriam



Norman Noviskey
7/24/1930-11/27/2017
Deacon
Member since 1970



GIVE
Blood
At the church
February 1st
12-5:45 pm

Ash **WEDNESDAY**

On February 14th, we hope you will join us for a soup supper and our Ash Wednesday service. This year we will include the imposition of ashes for those who desire to carry this symbol of **repentance** as we begin Lent.

Lent traditionally begins the 46 days prior to Easter, and in the Presbyterian Church members often observe this season through fasting, deliberately adding something positive to their lives, or giving something negative up.

It is not supposed to be easy, as it is intended to serve as both reminder and recognition of the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

Pastor's **CORNER**

I hope it was helpful to hear me preach on January 7, 14, and 21 on the subject of "Why Birchfield Thinks the Church Exists."

My three legged statement once again is: "The church exists that all may know the love of God in Jesus Christ, that all may

go, and that all may share the love of God in Jesus Christ." It's a statement that I keep before me, to remind me what we really are to be accomplishing together.

In my opinion, a church is fulfilling its purpose when people in our community, who don't belong to a church, decide to come because they are learning from our members about God's love for them. We achieve what God wants us to achieve if those who become members here grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

That will be evident if we see our members living more and more like Jesus. If things come full circle for those who have become members, they then reach those who are not a part of the church already with the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ. This cycle is what makes a truly potent church.

As I mentioned in my sermon on January 7th, such a purpose for the church means our members need to understand that they are missionaries. We are on mission together to reach our community and world with this message: God loves them so much he sent his Son to become the sacrifice for their sins, so they will receive by faith the gift of eternal life.

Hopefully, the more we talk about this purpose for the church, the more we will see newcomers entering our fellowship to profess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We will see our present and future members hungering and thirsting to know Christ, and to make Christ known every day. We will join together more readily in doing what is required to reach out to the people in our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and everywhere else with the love of God in our sharing with them who Jesus is, and why Jesus has made an eternal difference in our life.

God Bless!

Pastor Dan



Session MINUTES

Pastor Birchfield opened the meeting with a devotional and the Lord's Prayer. All Elders were in attendance, along with Church Administrator, Jim Day.

With sadness, the death of Norman Noviskey on 11/27/17 was recorded.

It was noted that over 450 people attended the Lakewood Choral Society Christmas Concert in our sanctuary.

A motion was made and supported to approve reduction recommendations and the proposed 2018 Budget as presented. The Elders looked very closely at the impact of reducing compensation/hours, transitioning the Director of Student Ministry position to part time, as well as addressing all areas of ministry and mission. After thoughtful and intentional deliberation, the motion carried.

The current financial report was received on motion. A refund of \$1990 on unused materials for the pavilion construction was placed in the Capital Fund.

A building security meeting to safeguard Sunday worship has been rescheduled to mid-January.

Consultant, Greg Scheer, plans to attend the January meeting of Worship & Music and share his recommendations.

A request by NAPS to hold a silent auction of 4 ArkPrize pieces on display at Pierce Cedar Creek was made, along with a request to hold a "Cocoa & Canvas" event in our gym at a cost of \$15 per Adult/Child who would participate. On motion, both of these requests were approved.

During Lent, a 50 Day Spiritual Adventure will be held focusing on the Life of Jesus.

The Mission Committee is investigating mission opportunities for assisting with disaster relief within the continental United States.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT OFFICERS 12/17/17

The following were elected to the Class of 2020.

Elders: Sally Keller, Tom Mawson, Jo Ann Mullins, Marjorie Roets, and Deborah Storms

Deacons: Sandra Billingsley, Cheryl Cole, Judy Fletcher, Marcia Leedy and John Surratt

Trustee: Doug Hunt

Lifeline SCREENING

Screening will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 10, offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventative health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health and to live longer for yourself, your family, and your community, please register for these important screening today. Learn your risk of having stroke or vascular disease. There is no time like the present to take action! Call 1-888-814-0416 or register online at:

www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners

With THANKS

We have been overwhelmed by the love and support of this church. To Rev. Birchfield and Dr. Spindler for all the home and hospital visits, for conducting the funeral service for Norm. To Todd Willard, who provided the very special music. To the women and men who served the delicious lunch (we received a lot of compliments!) And especially the congregation, who kept our family in your prayers for such a very long time. Thank you!

Joyce Noviskey and family

Family MINISTRIES

Want LENT 2018 to be deep and rich? Join your FPC friends on The 50 Day Spiritual Adventure. Pastor Dan has already begun the introduction to this year's adventure theme: "Celebrate Jesus! Discover What Makes Him Attractive to So Many People." Pastor Dan's sermons from January 28 through Easter Sunday, April 1, will center on a different characteristic that makes Christ attractive to so many people—touching lives in a way that helps us passionately share those traits with unbelievers. No airline tickets or passports are necessary for this trip! All you need is a journal (available for purchase in the narthex), a pen or pencil, your Bible, and 15-20 minutes a day. Journal warm up days Friday and Saturday, February 16 and 17. The Adventure officially begins Sunday, February 18.

How about taking something on for LENT instead of giving something up? The 50 Day Spiritual Adventure is a great daily Bible Study and a source for a great sermon series. But the 50 Day Spiritual Adventure can also be a great way to reinforce some great habits you already have, or instill some new ones into your mind and heart. Explore the following topics as they are fleshed out in your Adventure journal: pursuing purposeful prayer, affirming others in your sphere of influence, do something kind for someone outside of your "church circle," explore ways to share your faith. Being intentional about these things for 50 days WILL have an impact on each of us personally and on the lives of those around us at FPC, in Hastings, and beyond.

It's time again for LENT Soup and Group on Wednesday evenings. Ash Wednesday, February 14, we'll gather for homemade soup, bread, and salad. Once supper is over, head to the sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday service. The 4 Wednesdays after that, we'll gather for soup supper and group conversations about the weekly 50 Day Adventure theme. Each Wednesday soup supply comes from a different FPC ministry team. Ash Wednesday's feast will come from the Family Ministries team. Wednesday, February 21 will be hosted by the Deacons. February 28 and March 7 are still being assigned. March 14 will be hosted by the Worship and Music folks. Pastor Dan will be leading "the group" part of soup and group. Stay tuned for more details as the time draws closer!

Noah's Ark Preschool Chapel, February 27 (9:30/12:40 and 28: 9:30 in the sanctuary) Our worship time will include singing songs to God, hearing one of God's stories: "Through the Roof," talking to God, and blessing each other as we go back into the day, knowing God is with us wherever we are! Adults are always welcome, and we'll even let you sit on a chair instead of the floor!

Are you the primary caregiver for a family member or friend? Would you appreciate being with other folks who understand exactly what you are going through because they are, too? If you are looking for a deeply supportive, wise, prayerful, affirming group, look no further! It's here at FPC. The group meets typically every three weeks on a Tuesday morning for 90 minutes in the lounge. Pat Cassell is the group facilitator. If you'd like to know more, talk to Pat or to Jan DeVos.

Noah's Ark PRESCHOOL

FEBRUARY – “A friend loves at all times!”- Proverbs 17:17

We have had a wonderful start to 2018! The roller coaster weather keeps us on our toes, and we have had lots of opportunities to be outside playing in our wonderful outdoor classroom. The children have enjoyed creating snowmen around the church grounds as well!

Registration is underway for the 2018-2019 school year. Church families had the first opportunity to enroll in January, followed by returning Noah's Ark Families in February. We will open registration to new families in March. Please help us by telling family members, friends, and community members about our wonderful program. We are excited to be planning our 23rd year!

In January, we held our Kindergarten Parents meeting, which is an opportunity to assist our children and their family's transition to elementary school.

We are excited to tell you about an event to raise money to buy classroom supplies for our preschool. We will be having a “Cocoa and Canvas” event on March 10. This will include an art lesson from our own Mrs. Bivens. Both adults and children will receive a canvas panel, water color paints and brush, step-by-step instructions to create a winter scene (and cookies and hot cocoa!). The cost is \$12 per person and everyone is welcome!

February brings us to our annual Valentine's Program! The children have been hard at work brushing up on their singing skills to bring their families a bit of entertainment. The event is split into two evenings, February 12 and 13, to accommodate the large number of families that attend.

Our Reading Night will be held March 15th at 6:30. We are in need of volunteers! Please let LeeAnn know if you can help. LeeAnn can be reached at the preschool at 945-5463 x3008 or email noahsarkschool@firstchurchhastings.org. Thanks in advance!!

Our teaching staff will be meeting with families this month and next for conferences. They use this time to update the families on their child's progress, and plan for the upcoming school year.

DATES & BITS:

Enrollment stands at 87 children! What blessings God has sent to us!

February 12 & 13 Valentines Programs!

March 10 Cocoa and Canvas Fundraiser

March 15 Reading Night

Registration for the 2018-2019 school-year continues ☺

Student MINISTRY

How often do we go to the movies to see the latest adaptation of our favorite book, and then after the two hours in the theater, and the time for comparing the book to the movie, we say “It wasn’t as good as the book.” Often times we prefer the book to the movie because we are able to have our own story be a part of the large story. We stay up late because we can’t put our book down. We want to stay in our book for as long as possible. (My last experience with this was reading the Hunger Games Trilogy by Suzanne Collins). Now comparatively, do we have the same feeling when we read our Bible?

In Hebrews 11, often called the faith chapter of the Bible, we read of many individuals by name. Each of the people named lived a difficult life and traversed through challenge and doubt. BUT many of them chose to obey God. As it says in Hebrews 11:13

“All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.”

Isn’t it easy to rush through our Bible reading without thinking about the people and events in scripture? The self-imposed schedule that we place on our day takes away of going deeper into God’s truth and His plan for our lives. Yet, when we are willing to stay awhile, we find ourselves caught up in the real-life dramas of people like us, who chose to stake their lives on God’s faithfulness. Whenever we open God’s Word, it’s good to remember that we can stay as long as we want.

McCasland, D. C. (2017, September 13). Retrieved from Our Daily Bread: www.oddb.org/2017/09/13/stay-awhile/

2nd Annual Super Bowl Tailgate

February 4th from 1-3 pm

Bring your competitive spirit, and the will to win! PATH will be having a tailgate before the big game. Bring your favorite game-watching snack to share with everyone, and be sure to bring friends!



Stewardship UPDATE

The following provides a budget update for year-end, December 31, 2017:

Budget snapshot:

Receipts

Budgeted Receipts: \$555,914

Actual Receipts: \$619,785*

Expenses

Budgeted Expenses: \$600,718

Actual Expenses: \$582,745

*includes *Together Campaign* receipts

Our actual receipts combined with our actual expenses coming in under budget resulted in a \$37,040 surplus. Your *Together Campaign* receipts that were so graciously donated helped restore our reserve fund to a healthy position. Further details coming in the Annual Report!

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!!

David Curtis, Stewardship Chair, and Committee Members:

Dave Arnold, Ned Brown, David Logan, Larry Winkler

PER CAPITA

We have received word from the Presbytery that our *Per Capita* amount for 2018 is \$28.98. Should you desire to pay your *Per Capita*, please make that notation on your check. If any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of the Stewardship Committee members or Financial Manager, Nancy Allerdig. Thank you!

Session 2018 Budget UPDATE

Session has adopted the 2018 Budget. Details are provided in the Annual Report which will be reviewed at the February 4 Annual Meeting. Initially facing a \$92,000 deficit (projected expenses exceeding projected revenues), difficult but prayerful discernment ensued. The \$92,000 deficit was reduced to an adopted budget deficit amount of \$17,350. Overall budgeted expenses from 2017 to 2018 were reduced by 7.06%. Much of this reduction came from reducing many staff wages by 10%; reducing some staff hours 10% from full-time to part-time; and by reducing the Student Ministry Director position from full-time to part-time, beginning June 1. Additional reflection and analysis will take place in 2018 as we look forward to carrying out God's purpose for our church, all-the-while being good stewards of His many blessings He has showered upon us.

Staff CONTACTS

405 N. M-37 Highway
Hastings MI 49058

P: 269-945-5463

F: 269-945-4078

www.firstchurchhastings.org

Dan Birchfield x 3003

Pastor

dbirchfield@firstchurchhastings.org

Jim Spindler

Congregational Care

[jrspin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrs핀@sbcglobal.net)

Jim Day x 3023

Church Administrator

jday@firstchurchhastings.org

Nancy Allering x 3004

Financial Manager

nallerding@firstchurchhastings.org

Hilby Medendorp x 3024

Facility Manager

hmedendorp@firstchurchhastings.org

Karen Koedam x 3001

Administrative Assistant

kkoedam@firstchurchhastings.org



[Follow us on Facebook](#)

First Presbyterian MINISTRIES



FAMILY MINISTRY

Jan De Vos x 3005

jdevos@firstchurchhastings.org

Jan is our Family Ministry Director, and plans education and events within the church for nursery-grade school children, and adults.



NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

LeeAnn Miller-Busson x 3008

noahsark@firstchurchhastings.org

LeeAnn is our Noah's Ark Preschool Director. The preschool is celebrating its 21st year serving the Hastings Community this school year!



STUDENT MINISTRY

Patrick Tyrrell x 3010

ptyrrell@firstchurchhastings.org

Pat leads the students, Middle High through College. The kids are very active in Sunday School and Youth Group, and get involved in Mission and Fellowship events.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY

Todd Willard and Matt Callaghan x 3006

twillard@hassk12.org

mcallaghan@firstchurchhastings.org

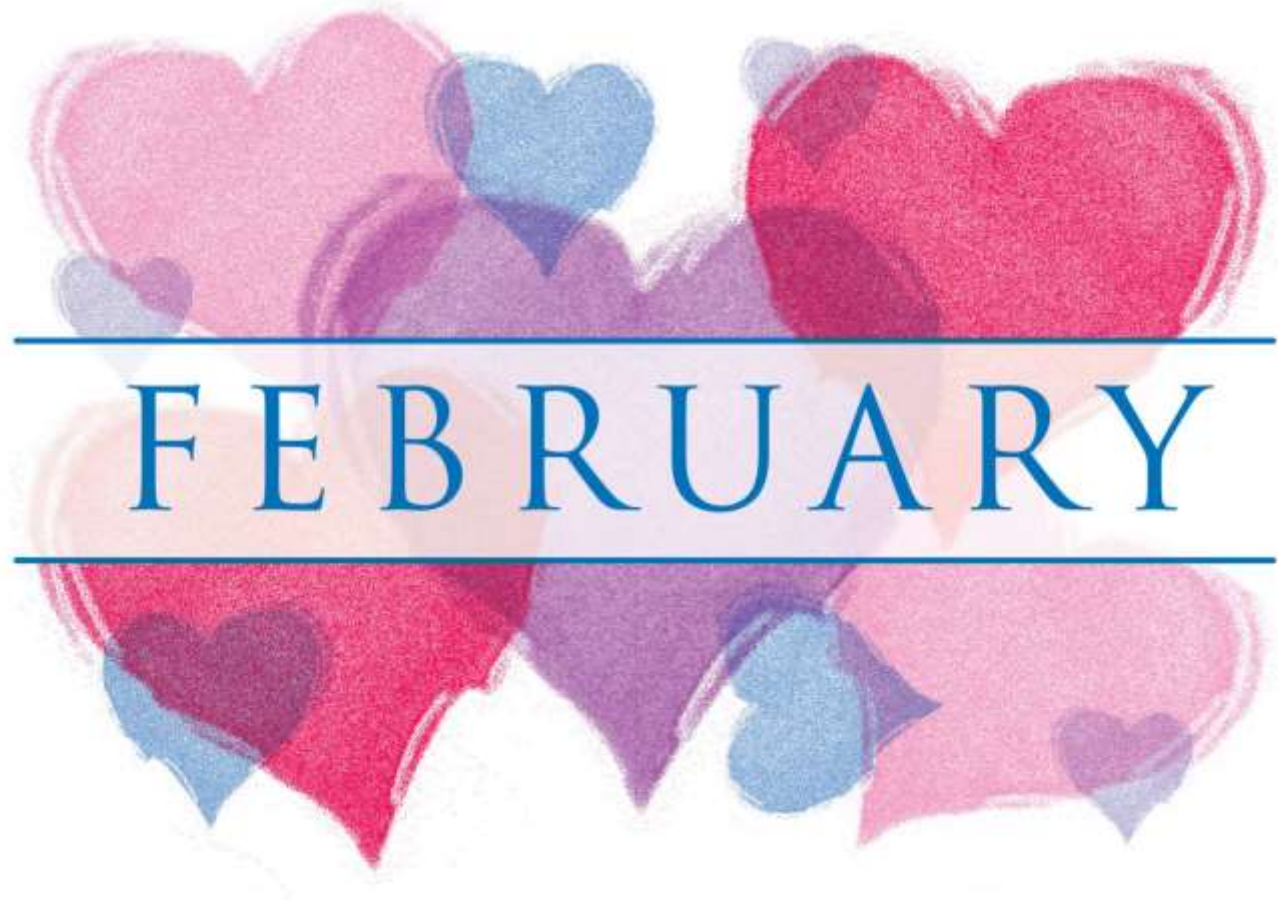
Todd leads the First Presbyterian Praise Team, a contemporary group of musicians and vocalists.



Matt leads the Church Choir in traditional hymns and music during the program year.

All the Ministries of First Presbyterian welcome and rely on the congregation throughout the year. To get more involved, please talk to the Ministry Directors about how you can help.

Click the month for the church calendar



Special Birthdays:

Carl Belson will be 95 on February 11th

Martha Brown will be 93 on February 18th

Norma Hitchcock will be 94 on February 20th