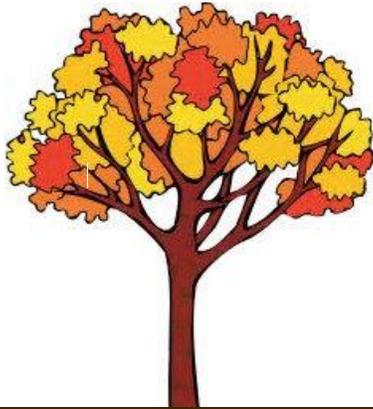




Mission Statement of 1st Presbyterian Church, Hastings

Following Christ, we strive to love and serve the world so that all may grow in faith and experience true joy.



More Good News

Sept. 2017
Volume 18, #9

From the Pastor's Desk

September at a Glance

Sept. 3

10:30 AM Worship
w/ Communion

Sept. 4

Labor Day

Sept. 10

10:30 AM Worship

Sept. 11

Session 6:30 PM

Sept. 15

Newsletter Deadline

Sept. 17 and Sept. 24

10:30 AM Worship

At the August Session meeting, the elders agreed unanimously to embark on a temporary change of location for our weekly Sunday morning worship service during the months of September and October. From Sunday, September 10 through Sunday, October 29 (Reformation Sunday), we will worship downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Like the informal worship that the congregation has held in the Fellowship Hall on the fourth Sunday of each month, members will be invited to grab a cup of coffee and worship in a slightly more informal setting. However, we will still have a worship bulletin, share together in worshipful liturgy, and sing from our *Glory to God* Hymnals. And we will gather around the symbols of our faith: a communion table, the baptismal font, and the candles that ordinarily call us to worship in the sanctuary. There will be a few chairs set up in rows, and some set at tables for fellowship. You may sit in a way most comfortable for you. Most of our worship service downstairs in the Fellowship Hall will be pretty much the same as the service we would celebrate together upstairs in the beautiful sanctuary.

So you may be asking, "Why move?" While our sanctuary is a gorgeous space for worship, with a wonderful piano, inspiring and uplifting "holy" space, and good acoustics, it is also too

large of a space for the current number of worshipping members. In the words of one church consultant, it is “uncomfortably empty.” Not just for visitors, but to us as members as well. We remember when it was full and we miss those who are no longer worshipping among us.

In the Fellowship Hall, we will worship in closer physical proximity to one another, in a space that is about the right size for the number of those gathered. We will be able to better sense the fellowship and attendance of those who ARE PRESENT, and perhaps be less aware of those who are not there.

This is a temporary change – not a permanent decision. We will move our worship back to the sanctuary for the months of November and December, where we will be able to celebrate the holiday traditions as in years past.

I hope and pray that you will give this worship experience a try. Let us know what works and doesn’t work for you. We will adjust things as we need to accommodate the things we learn week-to-week. And as we move back to the sanctuary in November, we will be seeking your input on how this sojourn period has been for you.

Thank you for being part of this worshipping community.

Yours in Christ,

Steve



1st Presbyterian Church of Hastings Core Values

- * **Moving and engaging worship**
- * **Openness in decision-making**
- * **Deep, life-giving relationships**
- * **Building and 150 year history as part of our identity**
- * **Serving the community through mission**
- * **Courage to take risks and the ability to persevere**



We have a new email address.

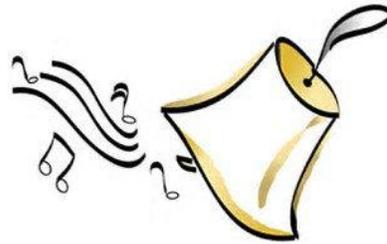
It is:

fpchastingsmn@gmail.com

Please be sure to change it in your address book and contacts

Pastor Steve will be away on vacation August 30 through September 5 accompanying his wife Susan Peacock while she does a college visit for her work at Augsburg University. They will also be visiting friends in the Washington DC area. Please feel free to contact Steve by phone or email for any pastoral emergencies or concerns and he will arrange for a local colleague to respond as needed.

BELL CHOIR NOTES



Would you like to be a part of the Bell Choir? We are in need of a couple more ringers. No prior experience is necessary. Practices will start in October as the Choir would like to play in November and for Lessons in Carols in December.



Thank you for all the school supplies donated to Hastings Family Services. Your generous contributions help to make a difference in the ability of many children to start the school year out right.

THE RECIPE CORNER

Please send your recipies to Becky Tiefenbruck at mrsbect@gmail.com or put them in the newsletter box in the office.

Blueberry Pretzel Torte

submitted by Caroline Blumeyer



Crust:

1 c. butter

$\frac{3}{4}$ c. sugar

2 c. pretzels, chopped (use the knot type)

Filling:

1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese, room temperature

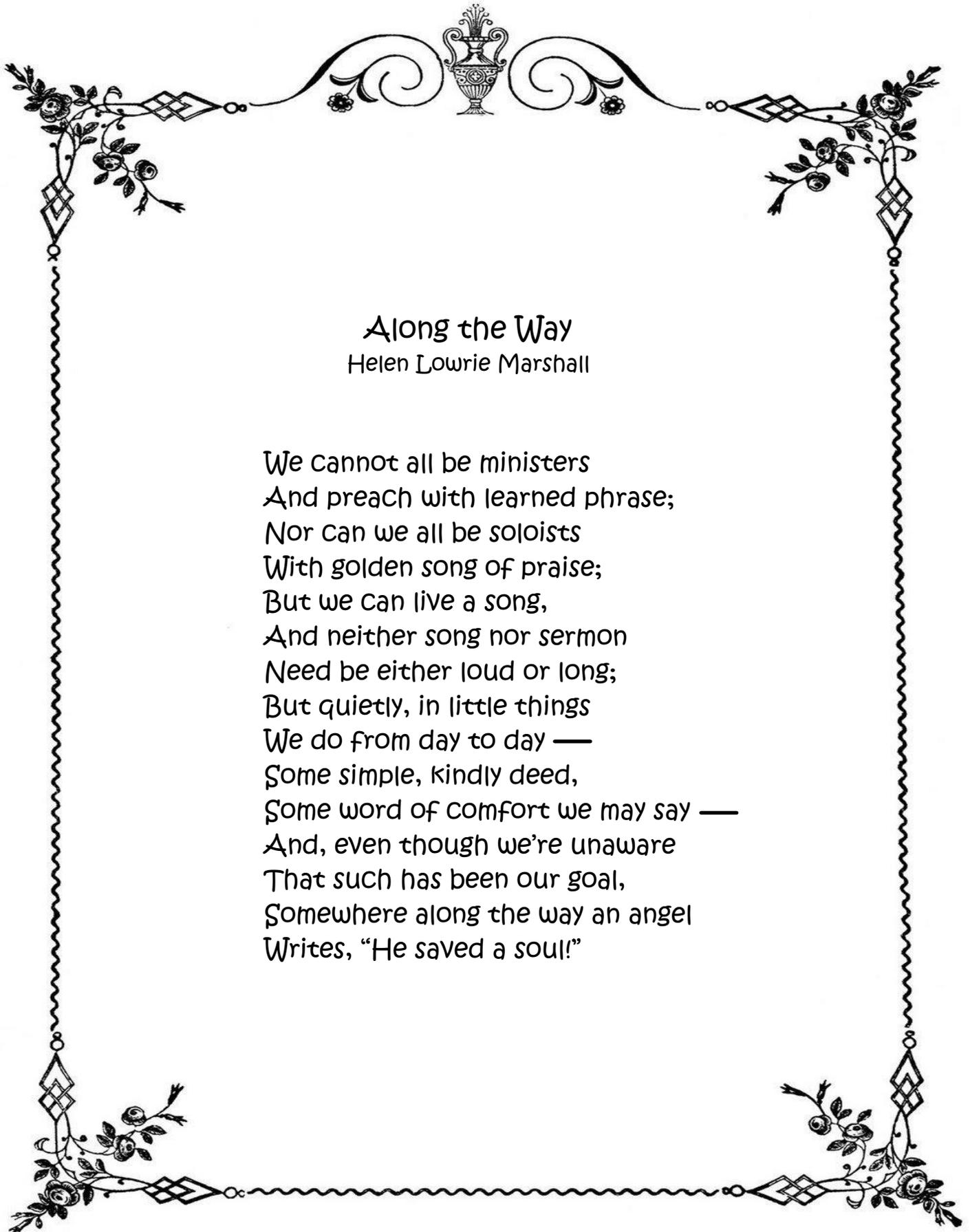
$\frac{1}{2}$ c. powered sugar

2 c. Cool Whip

1 (32 oz.) can cherry or blueberry pie filling

To make crust: Melt butter in saucepan. Add the sugar and blend. Remove from heat. Add pretzels and blend lightly. Press into an ungreased 9 x 13 inch pan. Refrigerate crust for 10 minutes.

To make filling: Blend cream cheese and powered sugar in bowl. Fold Cool Whip into mixture. Spread on crust, then add pie filling. Refrigerate.



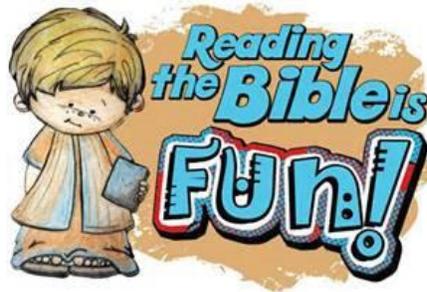
Along the Way
Helen Lowrie Marshall

We cannot all be ministers
And preach with learned phrase;
Nor can we all be soloists
With golden song of praise;
But we can live a song,
And neither song nor sermon
Need be either loud or long;
But quietly, in little things
We do from day to day —
Some simple, kindly deed,
Some word of comfort we may say —
And, even though we're unaware
That such has been our goal,
Somewhere along the way an angel
Writes, "He saved a soul!"

Bible Readings This Month

September 3

Ex. 3: 1-15
 Ps. 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45b
 Rom. 12: 9-21
 Matt. 16: 21-28



September 10

Ex. 12: 1-14
 Ps. 149
 Rom. 13: 8-14
 Matt 18: 15-20

September 17

Ex. 14: 19-31
 Ps. 114 or EX. 15: 1b-11, 20-21
 Rom. 14 1-12
 Matt 18: 21-35

September 24

Ex. 16: 2-15
 Ps. 105: 1-6, 37-45
 Phil. 1: 21-30
 Matt. 20: 1-16

September 2017 Servers

	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Leaders
Sept. 3	Tayson/Wittkopf	Tiefenbrucks	Kristin Blevins
Sept. 10	Brenda Reiter	Rashes	Grant Tiefenbruck
Sept. 17	Christians	Browns	Karen Altpeter
Sept. 24	Informal Worship	Mary Crawmer	Dave Hume

Session Minutes for June 13, 2017

A stated meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, MN was held at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the church on June 13, 2017.

The meeting began at 6:30 PM when Moderator Reverend Dr. April Davis Campbell lit the Christ Candle to remind us that we have been called together for a holy purpose. Mary has the devotions. She used a Daily Word reading about the beauty and wonder of God's world. See Psalm 24. Unity: See Psalm 133. How good is it when God's people live together in unity. The meeting was then opened with prayer.

Elders Present:

Class of 2017: Grant Tiefenbruck, Dave Hume

Class of 2018: Dennis Brown, Mary Crawmer

Class of 2019: Karen Altpeter

Absent: Brenda Reiter

Also Present: Denise Dunbar Perkins from the Committee for Ministry: Called Positions group.

Clerk's Report: The May minutes were approved as submitted. The death of Ken Kaiser was reported. The clerk was urged to have his granddaughter's issues circulated on the prayer chain.

Treasurer's Report: \$6000 was sent for the sign. The remaining 25% will be due upon completion. The budget actually looks pretty good. \$92 from the Pentecost Offering will be sent to the Lewis House. How do we arrange for coverage for the bookkeeper? She is currently present two hours on Tuesday twice per month. Dennis may be able to provide some coverage on Wednesdays after the end of June.

Foundation Report: No report this month.

Pastor's Report: Worker's comp audit was completed for this year. She led worship at Regina last week, but there is a shortage of piano players there. She has sent out a letter to the congregation about her imminent departure. April reported that there was a little drama in the call process but things seem to be clear going forward in Woodbury.

Presbytery Meeting: Dennis - May 9th in Rochester. The Per Capita is at 52% which was considered good. Presbytery Leadership Team continues to work on streamlining all of their processes. They have learned that no one style of operation is going to fit the whole Presbytery. Historical Note: Sheldon was a chaplain for both Union and Confederate Forces and the founder of the Rochester church.

Deacons: They now have 1000 cups for communion.

M/S/C to receive all of the reports above on the consent agenda.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds – Dennis – Still waiting for the sign. Dealing with the city has been problematic.

Fellowship – Brenda – No report

Christian Education – Confirmation happened. Waiting to order Sunday School curriculum.

Mission – Mary – Rivertown Days seems to be off the agenda. Plan is to support the Heifer Project instead of Shoeboxes this year around Christmas.

Stewardship/Finance – No additional report.

Personnel/Nominating – No report this month.

Worship – Karen – Outdoor Worship at Schaar's Bluff. August 27. Reservation for pavilion by Dave Hume. There will be no "blessing of the animals" service this year.

M/S/C to receive the committee reports.

Old Business – None

New Business – The next meeting will be to inform us about the change process and to work with us. The Transitional Pastor should be in place around July 30th. The church needs time to grieve. The Session can hire the Transitional Pastor. Pick someone who works for you. A template for the job position was shared. At this point the discussion focused on what is the way forward for this church with the worn out current leadership and the distressed finances. Presbytery resources will be coming to assist us through this period.

M/S/C to have a congregational listening event on July 16, 2017.

July 16th will be a discussion about the future of this congregation in lieu of worship.

There will be a special meeting of Session on June 19, 2017 at the church to begin the Transitional Pastor hiring process.

There will be a stated meeting of Session on August 3, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the church.

Denise closed the meeting with prayer at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Tiefenbruck
Clerk of Session



September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 10:30 Worship w/Communion	4  HAPPY LABOR DAY	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30 Worship  Karen Altpeter  Sonia Christian	11 Session 6:30 PM 	12  Jon Christian	13	14  Diane Albright	15	16
17 10:30 Worship	18	19	20	21	22  First Day of Autumn	23  Dennis Brown
24 10:30 Worship	25	26	27	28  Alex Norris	29	30



First Presbyterian Church

602 Vermillion Street

Hastings, MN 55033