



More Good News

Oct. 2017
Volume 18, #10

October **at a Glance**

Oct. 2

9:30 AM Adult Education
10:30 AM Worship
w/ Communion

Oct. 3

Session 6:30 PM

Oct. 8

9:30 AM Adult Education
10:30 AM Worship
Deacon's meeting after church

Oct. 15

9:30 AM Adult Education
10:30 AM Worship
Newsletter Deadline

Oct. 22

9:30 AM Adult Education
10:30 AM Worship

Oct. 25

6 PM Bell Choir Practice

Oct. 29

9:30 AM Adult Education
10:30 AM Worship

From the Pastor's Desk

For me, the fall season begins with the coming of October. It is usually about then that we see the leaves begin changing into their beautiful array of fall colors, the temperature moderating and cooling off in the evenings, compelling the need for a light jacket or sweater, and the fireplace is lit with a small fire to give heat and light into the longer darkened evenings.

Of course, what is really happening that brings about this season of fall is that our natural world is going about its seen and unseen preparations for the impending winter months. The sap in the trees is stopping its run to the branches and is hunkering down safely into the trunk of the tree. The squirrels are gathering their nuts and storing up for the period of hibernation in the months to come. The birds are gathering together to head south to warmer climates for the season.

In the fall season, there is an energy around the spirit of preparation and "hunkering down" in the knowledge that a change of season is impending. Winter is coming. The season of snow and ice and bitter cold that makes life in this beautiful land of 10,000 lakes a little more difficult. While many choose to think of fall as a declining season of life, I like to think of it as a transitional season of life. Transitioning in preparation for what is to come. Transitioning so that we can endure the austerity of winter in expectation of the coming again of light and colors in the spring and summer season.

Here at First Presbyterian Church, we are in a period of fall transition. We are “hunkering down” as it were, making sure we have made the preparations and adjustments in our routines and life together to make it through this time of transition. We are making sure that we have done those things that will help us live securely and comfortably through this season of change until we can return into the spring and summer of our congregation’s life and ministry.

I am thankful for your openness to think through the habits and customs of being church together, and to choose those that are most near and dear to focus our energies on and to considering letting go of those things that may be less important. We have a good spirit and energetic leaders that are seeking the best for this congregation of First Presbyterian Church in Hastings. I have not doubt that this will be a beautiful, colorful fall and a secure winter transition, and that we will emerge as a congregation stronger and heartier in the coming spring.

I am glad and grateful to be with you in the fall and winter seasons of the congregation’s life. And with you, I look forward to the promise of a coming spring season in the not-to-distant future!

See you in church,

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



Peace and Global Witness Offering October 1st

The Peacemaking Offering supports the peacemaking efforts of the church at every governing body level and provides an opportunity to witness to God's gift of peace in the world. During this Season of Peace, the Syrian refugee crisis has provided a striking example of the need for Christ's peace in the world. Part of this year's offering will be used to support Syrians displaced by violence.

Gifts given to the Peacemaking Offering through a congregation are divided in the following manner - twenty-five percent retained by congregations for support of their own peacemaking ministry; 25 percent used to support presbytery and synod peacemaking efforts; and 50 percent forwarded to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program of the Presbyterian Mission Agency so that it can continue to provide assistance and resources for congregations and other bodies of the PC(USA). Online gifts to the Peacemaking Offering are used on the General Assembly level

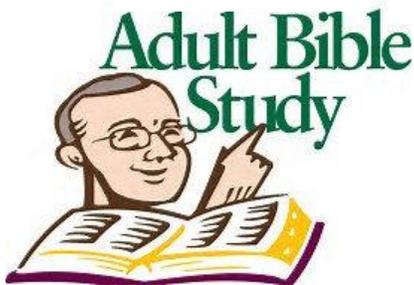
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4:18-19

Jesus calls us to be peacemakers.

Contribute to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is on the ground in both Texas and Florida, not only helping congregations and their members, but reaching out through those congregations to the larger communities they serve. PDA provides emergency support in the days immediately following the disaster, and remains in the communities for months and years to come to help families rebuild and begin life again. **Our congregation will receive a special offering through October 1st to support the work of PDA.** You may send or bring your gift to the church.



Pastor Steve will be leading a topical adult bible study on Sunday mornings during the month of October, beginning at 9:30 am. These 45-minute times of conversation will be an opportunity to deepen our connection with scripture in light of contemporary issues. Watch and listen for more detailed information in the weeks to come. And let Pastor Steve know some of the current issues that may be on your mind these days that you would like to see considered in the study time.



BELL CHOIR NOTES



The Bell Choir Fall Schedule

Wednesday October 25th	6:00	Practice
Wednesday November 1st	6:00	Practice
Sunday November 5th	9:30	Practice before church
Wednesday November 8 th	6:00	Practice
Sunday November 12th	9:30	Practice & Play in Church
Wednesday November 15th	6:00	Practice
Wednesday November 29 th	6:00	Practice
Sunday December 3 rd	9:30	Practice before church
Wednesday December 6 th	6:00	Practice
Sunday December 10 th	9:30	Practice & Play in Church

PTCA Mission Celebration

Saturday, October 14



Mission Celebration 2017 is coming in October, following the theme "Concerns of God's Heart." Organized by the Mission and Witness Committee of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, the event is planned Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. Complete details about the celebration can be obtained from Pastor Steve.

THE RECIPE CORNER

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

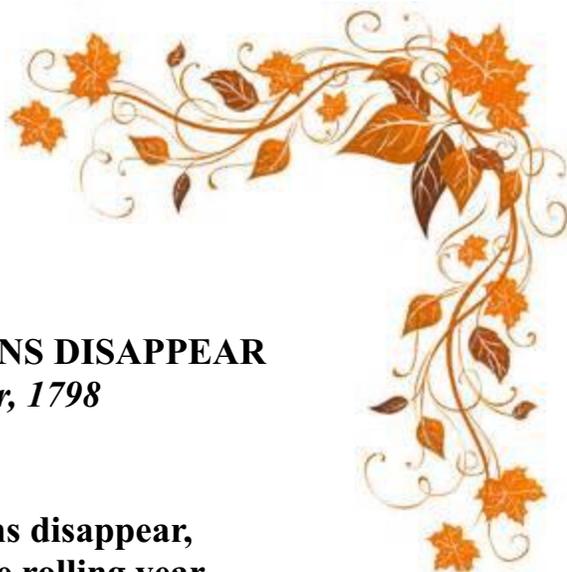


Peanut Butter Cheesecake Brownies

submitted by Brenda Reiter

1 package (19 to 21 oz.) Brownie mix
1 package 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1/3 c. sugar
1 egg
1/4 cup peanut butter
1/2 tsp. vanilla

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare brownie mix as directed on package. Spoon into paper lined muffin cups (makes 15 to 20). Beat cream cheese, sugar, egg, peanut butter, and vanilla with mixer until blended. Spoon 1 rounded tablespoon of mixture into center of brownie batter in each cup. Press lightly into batter. Bake 30 minutes or until set.



GREAT GOD, AS SEASONS DISAPPEAR
Edmund Butcher, 1798

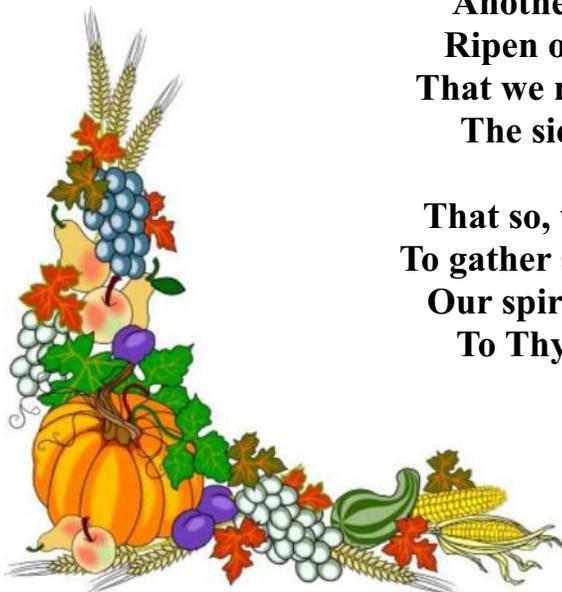
**Great God, as seasons disappear,
And changes mark the rolling year,
Thy favor still has crowned our days,
And we would celebrate Thy praise.**

**The harvest song would we repeat,
Thou givest us the finest wheat;
The joys of harvest we have known;
The praise, O Lord is all Thine own.**

**Our tables spread, our garner stored,
O give us hearts to bless Thee, Lord:
Forbid it, Source of light and love,
That hearts and lives should barren prove.**

**Another harvest comes apace:
Ripen our spirits by Thy grace,
That we may calmly meet the blow
The sickle gives to lay us low.**

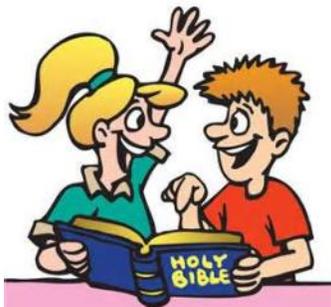
**That so, when angel reapers come
To gather sheaves to Thy blest home,
Our spirits may be borne on high
To Thy safe garner in the sky.**



Bible Readings This Month

October 1

Ex. 17: 1-7
 Ps. 78 1-4, 12-16
 Phil. 2: 1-13
 Matt. 21: 23-32



October 8

Ex. 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20
 Ps. 19
 Phil. 3: 4b-14
 Matt. 21: 33-46

October 15

Ex. 32: 1-14
 Ps. 106: 1-6, 19-23
 Phil. 4: 1-9
 Matt. 22: 1-14

October 22

Ex. 33: 21-23
 Ps. 99
 1 Thes. 1: 1-10
 Matt. 22: 15-22

October 29

Deut. 34: 1-12
 Ps. 90: 1-6, 13-17
 1 Thes. 2: 1-8
 Matt. 22: 34-46

October 2017 Servers

	Greeters	Ushers	Lay Leaders
Oct. 1	Carlotta Mullins	Judy Becker	Marcia Caneff
Oct. 8	Mary Crawmer	Browns	Kristin Blevins
Oct. 15	Karen Altpeter	Christians	Becky Tiefenbruck
Oct. 22	Tayson/Wittkopf	Tiefenbrucks	Dave Hume
Oct. 29	Rashes	Brenda Reiter	Grant Tiefenbruck

Session Minutes for August 3, 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 August 3, 2017.

The meeting began at 6:30 PM when Moderator Reverend Dr. Stephen Robertson called the meeting to order. Brenda led the devotions. Guinea fowl raised in the South do well on cattle farms. However, they can be so stupid. Maybe God thinks the same thing about us and our lives. 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, Brenda Reiter

Absent: None

Also Present: Becky Tiefenbruck

Clerk's Report: All of the June minutes were approved as submitted. The death of Virginia Krier was reported June 28. Francis Woxland also died on June 20.

Treasurer's Report: The report still includes the Church Vitality Grant which tends to obscure the real situation. The tithes and offerings are on pace to reach \$66,500 (good!). The church expenses are presently about \$64,000. Included in this figure is money for the new church sign.

Foundation Report: No report this month.

Pastor's Report: MSC to reaffirm the Transitional Pastor's Terms of call.

Housing Allowance	\$13,150
Employee Retirement Payments	\$24,000
Pension-only Participation	\$ 4,087
Continuing Ed. Allowance	\$ 1,200
Mileage Allowance	\$ 800
Professional Expense	\$ 400
Total	\$43,637

Denise Dunbar Perkins will represent Presbytery in worship on 8/13 for the installation. A Pulpit Supply check for 7/16 service was given to Steve. The Session reviewed a list of persons who were not at the "Listening Service" to determine who else needs to be contacted. Steve may take some time off around Labor Day. He'll be looking to simplify and right size things.

Presbytery Meeting:

Deacons: They are continuing to carry out their usual activities.

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

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds – Dennis – Sign is up. Gave Steve keys to his office.

Fellowship – Brenda – Had a nice going away party for April. Collected \$250 for a gift.

Christian Education – Very uncertain future.

Mission – Mary - Collecting school supplies this month. Push the Heifer Project during the fall.

Stewardship/Finance – Nothing additional to report

Personnel/Nominating – Grant - need to get organized.

Worship – Karen – Outdoor Worship at Schaar's Bluff. August 27. Dennis will alert KDWA. Dave will grill hot dogs.

M/S/C to receive the committee reports.

Old Business – There was a brief discussion about the Presbytery grant and how much of the program we could still accomplish. To be continued.

New Business – Discussion about special worship services before the end of the year.

M/S/C to try worshipping in Fellowship Hall for a defined time during the fall as an experiment. The chosen dates are 9/10 thru 10/29.

The old empty website for our church is still up on the web. How do we get it down? Talk with Tim Dymacek about old contacts.

Need to learn from April how to record the service and upload to the website.

There will be a stated meeting of Session on Monday, September 11, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the church.

Pastor Steve closed the meeting with prayer at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Tiefenbruck
Clerk of Session



October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Bible Study 9:30 am 10:30 Worship w/Communion	2	3 Session 6:30 PM	4  Marcia Caneff  Shelly Becker Latimore	5	6	7
8 Bible Study 9:30 am 10:30 Worship Deacons meeting after church	9  Columbus Day  Kaitlin Christian	10	11	12	13	14
15 Bible Study 9:30 am 10:30 Worship	16  Marcia Rash	17	18	19	20	21
22 Bible Study 9:30 am 10:30 Worship	23	24  Doris Cragoe	25  6 pm	26	27  Conner Stenzel	28
29 Bible Study 9:30 am 10:30 Worship	30  Kristin Blevins	31  Happy Halloween  Aimee Fagnant				