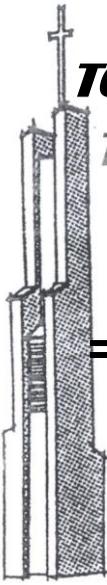


First Presbyterian Church
1803 - 83rd Street
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53143



TOWER TOPICS

Church Phone: 262-652-6838
Church e-mail: k1stpres@yahoo.com
Church Website: www.kenoshafpc.org
LANCE LOVEALL, Pastor

DATED MATERIAL

February 27, 2020



Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent, starting on March 4th, for soup suppers. We will gather in Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. for fellowship, soup, and devotions. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you would like to make soup.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

On January 12th I offered a one day Digging Deeper class on the history of the Presbyterian Church in America. I crammed A LOT of information into an hour, focusing mainly on where we came from and our divisions, reunifications, and the splinter Presbyterian denominations that left in our wake. I told my brother that the youth in the class thought it was “very boring” and he said, “You managed to make the history of the Presbyterian Church boring? How did you do that?” (Sarcasm! Our spiritual gift!) So today in the words of Inigo Montoya of *The Princess Bride*, “Let me explain... No, there is too much. Let me sum up.”

The history of the Presbyterian Church in America is the history of a group of people asking themselves over and over again, “Who are we?” It is about identity. Some things we have always put in the answer, “We are people who value education and mission.” Because of that there are sixty Presbyterian Church (USA) colleges and universities in the U.S., six secondary schools, twelve seminaries, and a whole host of camp and conference centers around the country dedicated to the education and enrichment of Christians. There are also a number of hospitals around the country that owe their foundations to the Presbyterian Church. Because of missionary efforts there are Presbyterians around the world in places like Guatemala, South Korea, Cameroon among MANY other places. These are not American Presbyterian churches in those countries but rather indigenous Presbyterian churches that sprang to life as a result of missionary efforts. Even today mission is a HUGE part of what the PC(USA) is all about with co-workers and programs all over the globe.

Beyond those two things, though, we have struggled with the question of who we are. Originally we were an immigrant faith brought over by the Scots-Irish immigrants in the 1600's. Soon, however, as more non-immigrant and second-generation colonists became involved, the church began to change and lose its identity as a body dedicated to doctrinal purity and intellectual faith into one that appreciated a heart-felt piety and welcomed more emotional aspects of worship, like the revivalists of the Great Awakenings. People no longer cared about the roots of the faith in the Westminster Confession, and you see a body torn apart by the question of “Who are we now?” Some had to leave to find that answer. Others settled into compromise until the next issues that raised the question again? Are we stuck on history affirmations of what we have always believed or are we open to the changing movement of the Spirit (and how can we trust it truly is the Holy Spirit?) Later we asked, “Are we a people who can allow slavery to remain in our midst?” and Southern Presbyterians split. Are we a body that believes the church should speak out on social issues, political issues, and national issues of concern or stick to spiritual matters? Are we a denomination that includes African Americans or Native

Americans and to what degree? Are we a body that believes in just wars or pacificism? Are we people who believe in the full inclusion of women in the work of the church, even to the point of ordination to ministry? Are we people who believe in the inerrancy of the Bible and the literal reading of the Word or are we open in matters of science and higher biblical criticisms (ways of studying and understanding the Bible in context)? All of these questions caused discussions, arguments, splits and splinters. But in almost every case we eventually asked the question, “Are we better off together or apart?” and often the answer was clear that we are better off together. More recently we asked ourselves many times and over many years, “Are we a body that fully accepts those of the LGBTQ community? (and what does that mean to fully accept: Ordination? Marriage? Membership?) As a body we answered that question and that answer was not one everyone could accept and so there were members and churches that left to other Presbyterian bodies who identify themselves differently.

As the PC(USA) we tend to say we will accept, love, and care for ALL those God brings our way in the same way that we understand that in Christ God loved us, sinners though we are. Our job is to create a place where people can find God, worship Jesus, and know themselves to be loved in the community of faith no matter who they are. Sometimes we have to discuss and figure out what that means and how to do that, but that is what we do. I cannot say I enjoy everything that comes with being Presbyterian. It is hard duty. But I do think that together we have a better chance of answering that very faithful question when the need arises. “Who are we?” or maybe better, “Who are we called to be?”

Lance

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Called into being by God’s grace, we are Christians in progress;  
Called to grow together in God’s ways through worship, study, fellowship, evangelism, and service;  
Called to be servants of God’s love to one another, to our community, and to the world.  
We welcome all to our community of faith.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### General Operating Fund

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance 1/1/2020 | \$63,714.35        |
| Receipts                   | \$22,035.14        |
| Disbursements              | <u>\$36,640.32</u> |
| Ending Balance 1/31/2020   | <u>\$49,109.17</u> |

### Building Reserve Fund

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance 1/1/2020 | \$61,080.68        |
| Receipts                   | \$ 7,790.00        |
| Disbursements              | \$ 0.00            |
| Interest                   | <u>\$ 5.39</u>     |
| Ending Balance 1/31/2020   | <u>\$68,876.07</u> |

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BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join us each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, or at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room, as a group of us study the Bible together. All are welcome!

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## **CHECK IT OUT!**

In last month's Tower Topics, I told you about a book that provided some consolation after my husband passed away. That book, Tear Soup, is now in our library. I would say it's appropriate for ages 10-Adult.

Did you enjoy our last book club discussions? If so, you'll be glad to hear I'm currently exploring some books for another book club starting when we can depend on mild weather to cooperate with our meeting times.

## DAILY LECTIONARY PASSAGES

### MARCH 2020

- Mar 1** – Psalm 84, 150, 42, 32; Dan. 9:3-10; Heb. 2:10-18; John 12:44-50
- Mar 2** – Psalm 119:73-80, 145, 121, 6; Gen. 37:1-11; 1 Cor. 1:1-19; Mark 1:1-13
- Mar 3** - Psalm 34, 146, 25, 91; Gen. 37:12-24; 1 Cor. 1:20-31; Mark 1:14-28
- Mar 4** – Psalm 5, 147:1-11, 27, 51; Gen. 37:25-36; 1 Cor. 2:1-13; Mark 1:29-45
- Mar 5** – Psalm 27, 147:12-20, 126, 102; Gen. 39:1-23; 1 Cor. 2:14-3:15; Mark 2:1-12
- Mar 6** - Psalm 22, 148, 105, 130; Gen. 40:1-23; 1 Cor. 3:16-23; Mark 2:13-22
- Mar 7** - Psalm 43, 149, 31, 143; Gen. 41:1-13; 1 Cor. 4:1-7; Mark 2:23-3:6
- Mar 8** – Psalm 84, 150, 42, 32; Gen. 41:14-45; Rom. 6:3-14; John 5:24
- Mar 9** – Psalm 119:73-80, 145, 121, 6; Gen. 41:46-57; 1 Cor. 4:8-20; Mark 3:7-19a
- Mar 10** – Psalm 34, 146, 25, 91; Gen. 42:1-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-8; Mark 3:19b-35
- Mar 11** - Psalm 5, 147:1-11, 27, 51; Gen. 42:18-28; 1 Cor. 5:9-6:11; Mark 4:1-20
- Mar 12** – Psalm 27, 147:12-20, 126, 102; Gen. 42:29-38; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; Mark 4:21-34
- Mar 13** – Psalm 22, 148, 105, 130; Gen. 43:1-15; 1 Cor. 7:1-9; Mark 4:35-41
- Mar 14** – Psalm 43, 149, 31, 143; Gen. 43:16-34; 1 Cor. 7:10-24; Mark 5:1-20
- Mar 15** – Psalm 84, 150, 42, 32; Gen. 44:1-17; Rom. 8:1-10; John 5:25-29
- Mar 16** – Psalm 119:73-80, 145, 121, 6; Gen. 44:18-34; 1 Cor. 7:25-31; Mark 5:21-43
- Mar 17** - Psalm 34, 146, 25, 91; Gen. 45:1-15; 1 Cor. 7:32-40; Mark 6:1-13
- Mar 18** – Psalm 5, 147:1-11, 27, 51; Gen. 45:16-28; 1 Cor. 8:1-13; Mark 6:13-29
- Mar 19** – Psalm 27, 147:12-20, 126, 102; Gen. 46:1-7, 28-34; 1 Cor. 9:1-15; Mark 6:30-46
- Mar 20** - Psalm 22, 148, 105, 130; Gen. 47:1-26; 1 Cor. 9:16-27; Mark 6:47-56
- Mar 21** – Psalm 43, 149, 31, 143; Gen. 47:27-48:7; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Mark 7:1-23
- Mar 22** – Psalm 84, 150, 42, 32; Gen. 48:8-22; Rom. 8:11-25; John 6:27-40
- Mar 23** - Psalm 119:73-80, 145, 121, 6; Gen. 49:1-28; 1 Cor. 10:-11:1; Mark 7:24-37
- Mar 24** - Psalm 34, 146, 25, 91; Gen. 49:29-50:14; 1 Cor. 11:2-34; Mark 8:1-10
- Mar 25** – Psalm 5, 147:1-11, 27, 51; Gen. 50:15-26; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; Mark 8:11-26
- Mar 26** – Psalm 27, 147:12-20, 126, 102; Exod. 1:6-22; 1 Cor. 12:12-26; Mark 8:27-9:1
- Mar 27** – Psalm 22, 148, 105, 130; Exod. 2:1-22; 1 Cor. 12:27-13:3; Mark 9:2-13
- Mar 28** – Psalm 43, 149, 31, 143; Exod. 2:23-3:15; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Mark 9:14-29
- Mar 29** – Psalm 84, 150, 42, 32; Exod. 3:16-4:12; Rom. 12:1-21; John 8:46-59
- Mar 30** – Psalm 119:73-80, 145, 121, 6; Exod. 4:10-31; 1 Cor. 14:1-19; Mark 9:30-41
- Mar 31** – Psalm 34, 146, 25, 91; Exod. 5:1-6:1; 1 Cor. 14:20-33a, 39-40; Mark 9:42-50

## **SOUP KITCHEN**

On Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 9 volunteers from First Presbyterian served at the Soup Kitchen on 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The visitors enjoyed a healthy meal of a boneless chicken breast sandwich, sandwiches made with peanut butter and jelly, ham or turkey, carrots, salad, chips, fruit, desserts and coffee, milk or water. In addition, they enjoyed yummy chicken noodle soup made with love by Cris and Darlene Doil, and cupcakes donated by church members. Lots of smiles in that room! We served 81 adults and 26 kids for a total of 107 meals. There is also a satellite meal served at a different central city church each evening - Monday through Friday. Those attendees also enjoyed the soup made by the Doils. Thank you for your continued support of this worthwhile mission. Remember, if you would like to make your secret soup recipe for the Soup Kitchen, just talk to Carole Serpe, Julie Iorio, or Brenda Langerman. There is help available to you! If anyone would like to make cupcakes or serve at the Soup Kitchen in March, just sign up in the Narthex. Next Soup Kitchen date for us is Tuesday, March 3, 2020. Also, this month we collected 3 bags of groceries that will be donated to the Shalom Center.

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FIRESIDE FRIENDS

Fireside Friends will meet on Tuesday, March 10th at 10:00 a.m. for our usual coffee and fellowship. We will discuss our plans and calendar for the coming year, so please bring any ideas you would like to share. We do have coffee hour this month, but instead of the third Sunday of the month, we are hosting on March 29th. If you have any questions please contact Julie Iorio at 694-9217.

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## **SENIOR LUNCHEONS**

Our senior luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All seniors and guests are welcome. Please join us for delicious food and wonderful fellowship!

## **PRAYER SHAWL**

Prayer Shawl will meet on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. All knitters and crocheters are welcome!

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 95TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION

On Sunday, March 15th, following worship service, everyone is invited to enjoy a gathering and celebration honoring our church's 95th anniversary. We will be honoring and celebrating the people of First Presbyterian, both past and present, with a special fellowship. On this day, each of the 12 banquet tables in Fellowship Hall will have a birthday cake designated for each month of the year. Find your birthday month table and enjoy the cake and snacks displayed there.

Also, in the Link, our church history will be displayed, along with a timeline from 1925-2020. You are invited to write in your special connections with the church on the timeline, adding to our church history. You can include:

- membership date
- baptism date
- confirmation date
- wedding date
- officer installation date
- other

Please make plans to attend this special day of celebration in our church history.

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

Tower Topics
Kenosha, WI 53143
Issue #268

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN KENOSHA

ORGANIZATION DATE: MARCH 17, 1925

It took the early Presbyterians 90 years to get from Racine to Kenosha. Only ten miles separate these two towns, but while First Presbyterian of Racine was organized in 1839, the First Presbyterian Church was not organized until 90 years later, in 1929. For many years, Kenosha was the largest city in Wisconsin without a Presbyterian Church.

In 1922, under the direction of Milwaukee Presbytery, the Reverend C.E. Franz, Secretary, conducted a survey of, and set up, a Vacation Church School for the southwestern section of Kenosha between the North Shore Railroad and the city limits. The first Sunday School was organized in 1923 by Miss Ethyl Sanborn. Classes for a half-dozen children were held in the rear of a grocery store.

A portable chapel was secured from Madison in 1924 and was erected on a site far out from the center of the city in a neighborhood without a church and among employees of several large manufacturing plants. Growth of the Sunday School was so rapid and so great that the people of the community requested a Presbyterian Church be organized. On March 17, 1925, Salem Presbyterian Church, the first church of its faith in Kenosha, was organized. When the name of Salem Avenue was changed to Roosevelt Road, the church was incorporated under the name of First Presbyterian Church of Kenosha, Inc.

The first pastor, Reverend Roscoe T. Fulton, was called in September 1925. Charter membership was 58 and the Sunday School enrollment at that time was 100. In 1926 an addition to the building was erected. The Sunday School expanded into every room of the Pastor's house. In 1937, with unfavorable economic conditions, the congregation and many outside organizations contributed liberally to the building of a new church building. Services were temporarily moved to the basement of a nearby store while the new building was being constructed on the site of the original (little white) church. The new structure was dedicated in January 1940. Dedication was followed five years later by a Service of Mortgage Burning.

In 1958, upon the merger of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and the United Presbyterian Church of North America, the church became the First United Presbyterian Church. From 1952 until September 1963 the pastorate was filled by the Reverend George J. Ossentjuk. In 1956 growth (565 communicant members and 270 pupils enrolled in Sunday School) again moved the Sunday School classes into the former manse,

Westminster House. The Reverend Maynard Elftmann was installed as pastor in August, 1964, and served the church until 1966.

Growth and needed expansion resulted in final arrangements and construction of the present church building in 1966. It was dedicated on June 15, 1967. In April 1967, the Reverend Donald G. Christiansen was called as pastor. He served until his sudden death in April, 1971. The Reverend Paul A. Winchester served as interim pastor until Reverend Jean P. Hauter was called in March, 1972. On June 30, 1974, a church garden was dedicated as a memorial to loved ones and to the worship and service of Almighty God.

At the time of relocation in 1966, Presbytery thought it wise to organize a second Presbyterian Church in Kenosha. Approximately 100 members were transferred from First Church to become charter members of the John Knox Presbyterian Church. This enterprise was ill-timed, and the church was later dissolved.

In 1975 the First United Presbyterian Church celebrated its 50th Anniversary with Louis Lindquist, Noema Lorenz, Clifford Peterson, and Edna Veale as charter members present.

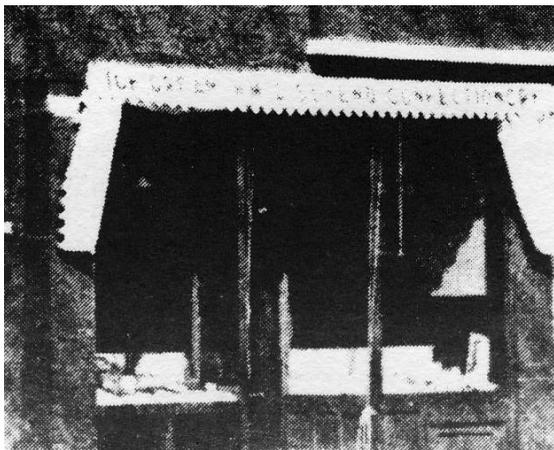
In June of 1982 a rededication and mortgage-burning service was held to celebrate the completion of mortgage payments on the present structure. Members of the church, Harry Moyer, Karl Karrer, and Robert Houston, who signed the mortgage 16 years earlier, participated in the program.

The Reverend Jean P. Hauter retired in June of 1983 after eleven years of dedicated service and was given the honor of being named Pastor Emeritus.

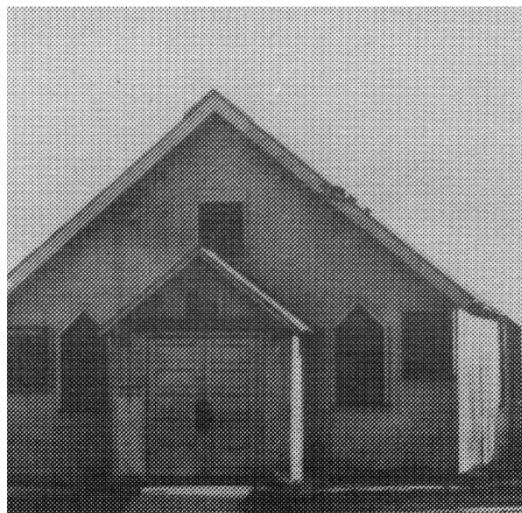
Reunification of the Presbyterian Church came about in 1983. The two largest Presbyterian denominations in the United States, The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S., were reunited on June 10, 1983. As a result of this, the name of the First United Presbyterian Church was changed to the First Presbyterian Church of Kenosha.

On Sunday, January 15, 1984, Dr. Richard Vogeley was called to be the new pastor, succeeding the Reverend Jean P. Hauter. He served as pastor until the fall of 1987. Dr. Robert Hill was called on March 1, 1989, serving the congregation until his retirement in November 1, 1999.

On May 6, 2001, the worship service was led by the Reverend Lance Loveall and a reception for the Reverends Lance and Paige Loveall followed the service. The Rev. Lance Loveall was installed as minister for the congregation at a 3:30 p.m. worship service held on Sunday, June 10, 2001. Subsequently, Pastor Hill was given the honor of being named the 2nd Pastor Emeritus.



1923 Grocery Store Sunday school



1925 Portable Chapel



1926 Chapel with addition

EASTER CHOIR

Like we did at Christmas, we will again be organizing a 'seasonal' choir. All the logistics will be the same as at Christmas: let me know if you will be participating, 2 practices, 1 performance. Everyone is invited to sing -- old (let's just call them 'experienced'), young, members, and visitors. The two practices will again be on Wednesdays, April 1 (no Foolin') and April 8, right after the soup supper devotions, with our performance being on Easter Sunday, April 12. Easter is one of the most joyful times of our year, so let's again gather our voices and make it truly joyful. Questions to Ron at 262-705-2222, or rmeinhardt@wi.rr.com. Thank you.

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## **SYNOD SCHOOL**

It's that time of year to start thinking about a fun opportunity for study, fellowship and fun at Synod School, July 26 - 31 in Storm Lake, Iowa. This is an event for Presbyterians of all ages - babies to senior citizens. Families can attend together, or it's a great time for grandparents and grandkids to bond. Chapel time, classes, games, music, crafts, movies, discussion groups and great food fill the week. Registration begins March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and early registration is advised if you want a suite (vs. dorm room) and to get the classes of your choice. The catalog is available online at [www.lakesandprairies.org/synodschool](http://www.lakesandprairies.org/synodschool). You can also use this link to register.

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THANK YOU

A sincere thank you for all your support during Cody's cancer surgery and recovery. The thoughts, prayers, donations, food, and cards have helped keep his spirits high during a difficult time. Cody has now returned to work, and will be starting treatments soon. We are so grateful and blessed to have such a wonderful and loving church family.

---Scott & Lori Barnes

PARISH NURSE NOTES

Guess what! We are only about 20 days away from Spring! However, we do realize that we live in Wisconsin, and that date doesn't always mean warm days and no more snow. The days are getting wonderfully longer, though, and that helps our spirits rise. Hopefully most of the gloomy gray days are over. We are already part way into Lent, so we can look forward to reminders of what joy and promises the Easter season brings.

These past months have not been so good health-wise for many in our congregation, their families and friends. Continue to hold them in your prayers, send cards or notes, make a phone call—we are a strong church family, and we need to let others know we care.

We are hearing almost daily about the coronavirus. Remember feeling that frightened when we first heard of HIV and AIDs? Please be aware that the annual flu is much more dangerous and has caused many more deaths. If you haven't had that flu shot, check with your doctor about still getting one. Flu season isn't over yet! And, of course, stay home if you feel ill...and remember to wash your hands!

Our immune systems protect us from many threats, but the ability to do so diminishes as we age. Help it function at its best by getting enough sleep (aim for seven hours a night), eating well (avoid “junk” food—get your fruits and veggies every day), drink adequate amounts of fluid (remember, if you feel thirsty, you are already starting to get dehydrated). Get up and move! That old saying “move it or lose it” is very true.

Stay warm. Stay healthy! Stay optimistic.

Blessings,

Karen Sorenson, Parish Nurse

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 8th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour!



March Birthdays

Lisa Hawley
 Steve Azuma
 Janet Griffin
 San Kennedy
 Eddie Piehl
 Erika Elmblad
 Jan Brandes
 Dave Hamelink
 Dorothy Thompson
 Nancy Lang
 Linda Putrow
 Muriel Cunningham
 Wyatt Djuplin
 Benjamin Hufendick
 Don Quist
 Harold Piehl

SESSION

Gary Anderson (Fellowship, Memorial)
 Kelly Andrichik (Worship & Music, Personnel*)
 Scott Barnes (Building & Grounds, Worship)
 Mark Bourque (Building & Grounds*)
 Walter Deignan (Building & Grounds)
 Cris Doil (Stewardship & Finance*)
 Marcy Hufendick (Christian Ed*, Personnel, Memorial)
 Shari Infante (Fellowship*, Mission, Memorial, Nominating)
 Todd Kotten (Building & Grounds)
 Ron Meinhardt (Worship and Music*)
 Leslie Pottorff (Mission*, Fellowship, Personnel, Memorial)
 Jodi Prince (Fellowship, Nominating)

() indicates committee assignments;
 *indicates Team Leaders

DEACONS

Lori Barnes, Ron Bauman, Renee Brueckert,
 Sherry Craig, Teddi Griffin, Lisa Hawley, Penny
 Ingraham*, Brenda Langerman, Nancy
 McGovern



March Anniversaries

Lois & Tom Van Dahm
 Sara & John Miles

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

February 2	150
February 9	123
February 16	130
February 23	127
Sunday Average	132



MARCH WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE



Head Usher: Jourene Frederick

March 1st

N. Door Greeter: Nancy McGovern
Greeters: Kelly Andrickik
Reader: Deb Kotten
Sound System: Tom Berry
Counters: Todd Kotten
Ed Schiller
Nursery Helper: Christi Deignan
Fellowship Host: Fellowship Team

March 8th

N. Door Greeter: Brenda Langerman
Greeters: Sharon Ainsworth
Reader: Markie Peroutka
Sound System: Walter Deignan
Counters: Todd Kotten
Ed Schiller
Nursery Helper: Molly Bergnach
Fellowship Host: Fellowship Team

March 15th

N. Door Greeter: Sherry Craig
Greeters: The Azumas
Reader: Sandy Billingsley
Sound System: Todd Kotten

March 15th (cont'd)

Counters: Todd Kotten
Ed Schiller
Nursery Helper: Kortnie Ruth
Fellowship Host: Mariners

March 22nd

N. Door Greeter: Teddi Griffin
Greeters: Tana Baldwin
Reader: Tyler Peroutka
Sound System: Don Mandry
Counters: Todd Kotten
Ed Schiller
Nursery Helper: Karen Edenhofer
Fellowship Host: Fellowship Team

March 29th

N. Door Greeter: TBD
Greeters: The Barneses
Reader: Ron Meinhardt
Sound System: Tyler Peroutka
Counters: Todd Kotten
Ed Schiller
Nursery Helper: Markie Peroutka
Fellowship Host: Fireside Friends

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS