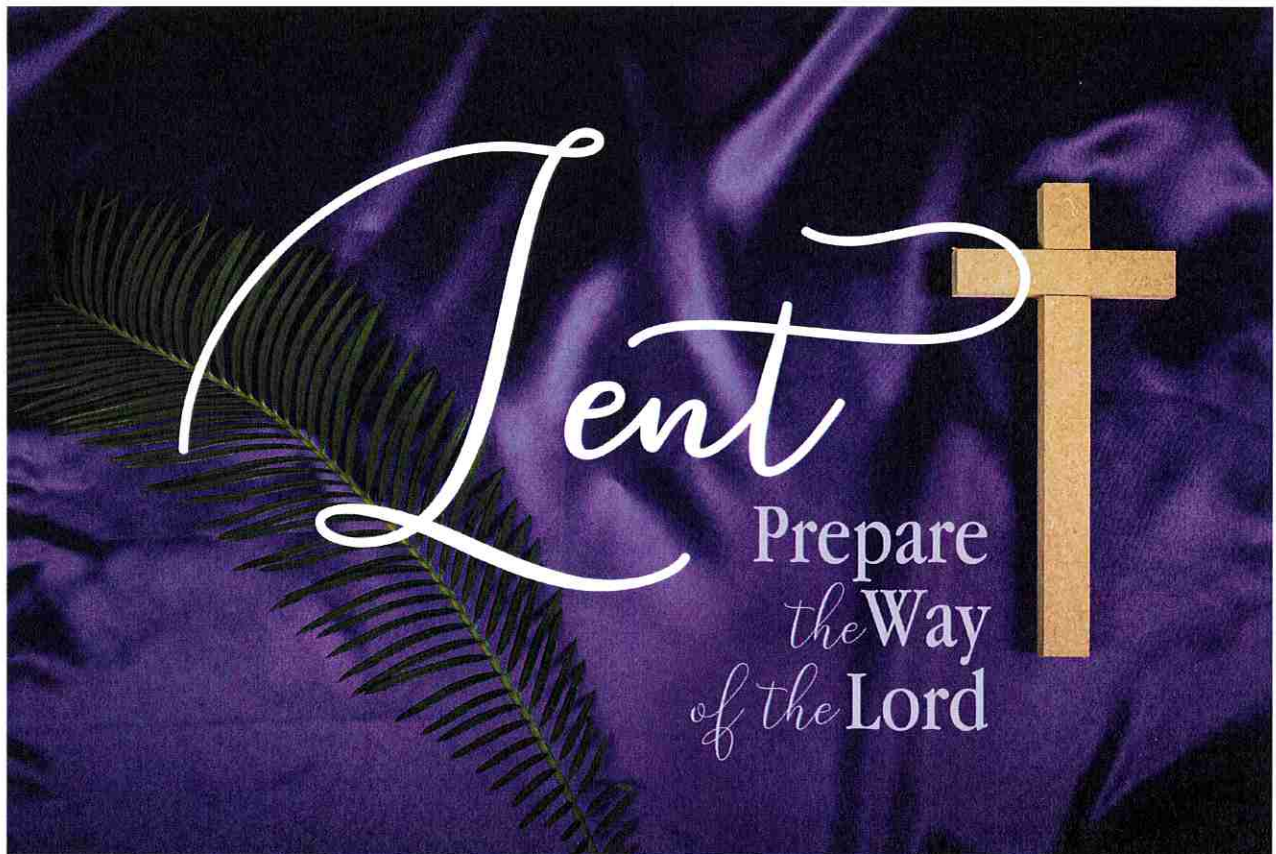
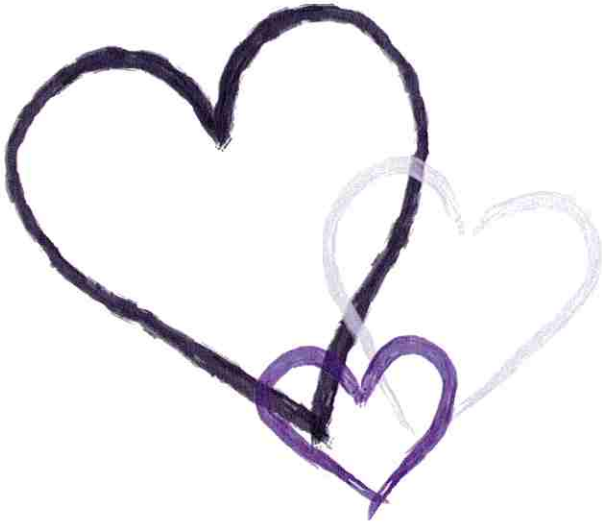


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February
2024






FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR



February 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Prayer Group 9:00 AM Pastor's COM Mtg 10:00 AM Session Meeting 6:30 PM	2	3
4 Scout Sunday 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Refreshments following worship Mission Committee Mtg. following Worship	5 Pastor Marla will be out of the office thru the 15th	6 Women's Zoom Study #6 @ 7pm	7 Quilt Club 8AM-4PM	8 Prayer Group 9:00 AM	9	10
11 Souper Bowl of Caring (offering to be collected) 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Tara Capitani will be our Guest Speaker Deacons Mtg. following Worship	12 EBW 6:00 PM Pastor Marla will be out of the office thru the 15th	13 Women's Zoom Study #7 @ 7pm	14 	15 Prayer Group 9:00 AM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	16 Pastor back in the office today	17
18 First Sunday in  9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Finance Committee Mtg. following Worship	19 Brandi will be out of the office thru March 1st	20 PGR Assembly 6:00 PM online only Women's Zoom Study #8 @ 7pm	21 Lenten Study #1 @ 7pm in the Yates City sanctuary	22 9:00 AM Prayer Group	23	24
25 Second Sunday in  9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Worship Committee Mtg. following Worship Coffee Hour	26 6:00 PM PEO Brandi will be out of the office thru March 1st	27 Women's Zoom Study #8 @ 7pm *last one	28 Lenten Study #2 @ 7pm in the Yates City sanctuary	29 Prayer Group 9:00 AM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM		

SCHEDULES

FEBRUARY

Announcements

Elder to be Liturgist & Assist Treasurer

February 4th Steve Winslow
February 11th Anita Asbell
February 18th Ron Cox/Mike Shissler
February 25th Calie Stalter



1st: Rudy Frank	13th: Kelly Shoop
3rd: Greg Hotz	20th: Cole Stalter
4th: Caroline Colgan	22nd: Scott Stalter
10th: Judy Cosby	23rd: Joel Stalter



Thursday morning Bible Study & Prayer Group
Thursday's @ 9am in the Fellowship Hall.



Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School meets
Sunday Mornings @ 9:00am

Everyone is Welcome!



Children's Sunday School
will meet on February 11th



Session Meeting
February 1st
@ 6:30pm



- Boy Scout Sunday - February 4th
We will be recognizing the boys
from Pack #3058 during worship.
Refreshments afterwards!

Out of
Office

Pastor Marla will be
out of the office
February 5th thru the 15th.

TACKLE



HUNGER

- Souper Bowl Sunday - February 11th

We will be collecting cans of soup, soup making supplies,
and monetary donations on Sunday, February 11th,
Souper Bowl Sunday, to be given to a local organization.

BE A GAME CHANGER!

When you give a donation you are providing food
for the hungry and compassion to those in need.
And that's the best way to change the game.



following worship

out of office

Brandi will be out of the office
February 19th thru March 1st.

Thank You

Thank you for your support of Marla as she has served on the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, and for Marty who will begin this year. We are thankful for your partnership, and their leadership.

In Christ's Service,
Cheyanna Losey
PGR Nominating Committee

Thank You

Dear Congregation,

Thank you to ALL of you for making my Christmas filled with love & joy. I appreciate all the goodies, gifts & "green" that you gave! You are an amazing & wonderful congregation!

Love,
Pastor Marla



Thank You

everyone for all the wonderful cards sent, gifts given and for the special card that everyone signed and contributed to! I am truly blessed to have worked in this church for 17 years, and to have you all in my life!

With Gratitude & Love, Brandi Teel

Let's Welcome our New Members Tony & Dianne Morton

From the Mortons:

We have bounced for the last 25 years for one reason or another. Our family was baptised 30 years ago at the Farmington Baptist Church.

I grew up and went to school in Elmwood. Dianne grew up and went to school in Farmington. We were married at the Baptist Church September 15, 1972, 51 years ago. We presently live at 149 Cone St. Farmington, IL and have for 50 years.

We have 2 children, a daughter in North Carolina with two grandsons, and a son in Canton with three grandsons.

We came to Elmwood Presbyterian Church in August and were invited to become members in November.

I am retired from Caterpillar and Dianne is retired from banking. We both enjoy reading the Word and attending bible classes.

In closing: have you found joy in your life; has your life brought joy in someone else's life? What would a Christian's answer be?

Tony & Dianne Morton

Phone: (309) 245-2614

Dianne's Cell: (309) 253-9917

Lenten Study, February – March 2024

Jesus: The God who Knows Your Name by Max Lucado

You believe Jesus is God. But do you also think of him as a *real person*?

For 33 years Jesus felt everything that we have ever felt: weakness, weariness, rejections. His feelings got hurt. His feet grew tired. His head ached. To think of Jesus in such terms almost seems irreverent. It is much easier to keep his humanity out of the incarnation. Clean up the manure from around the manger. Pretend he never snored or hit this thumb with a hammer. There is something about keeping Jesus divine that keeps him distant, packaged, and predictable. But we have to remember that the people who saw Jesus first...saw him first as a person.

As Max Lucado reveals in this video Lenten Study, because Jesus became human, it is now possible for us to see God and hear his voice. If we want to know what matters to God, all we need to do is look in the Bible to see what matters to Jesus. If we want to know what God is doing in our world, we need only ponder the words of Jesus. By learning more about the person Jesus was and is, we come to understand more clearly the people we were created to be.

Join your brothers & sisters from both Yates City and Elmwood Churches as we have this Lenten Study on **Wednesdays at the Yates City sanctuary ~ 7p.m.**

Feb 21 Session 1: God With Us (John 1:1-5, 14)

Feb 28 Session 2: Friend of Sinners (Luke 19:7-10)

Mar 6 Session 3: Compassionate Physician (Mark 2:15-17)

Mar 13 Session 4: Great Teacher (Matthew 13:54-58)

Mar 20 Last Meeting covering two sessions

Session 5: Miracle Worker (Matthew 14:15-19)

Session 6: Victorious Sacrifice (John 11:23-26)



N E W S



FROM THE PASTOR

February 2024

Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. *Isaiah 1:18*

Dear Friends,

We have recently sung a hymn called Jesus Paid it All (All to Him I Owe) and as we approach the Lenten season for 2024 let's look closer at its history. It has been stated that all religious systems can be spelled with just two letters—D O. The gospel of Christ, however, is spelled with four letters—D O N E! This hymn text, written by a lay woman named Elvina Hall, speaks pointedly to this basic truth, which is the very basis of our Christian faith. In 1965 she wrote these words on Sunday morning during the pastor's sermon and lengthy pastoral prayer at Monument Street United Methodist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. Apparently, she started thinking of all that Jesus had already done to provide for her salvation and was overcome with words that just had to be written down. Not having any paper handy she used the flyleaf of a hymnal!

Her words went along hand-in-glove with the church's organist, John Grape, who had recently composed a tune but had no words for it. It was first published in 1874 and is still sung in our churches today. The refrain goes *Jesus paid it all-- all to him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain—he washed it white as snow.*

In February we begin the season of Lent—that of reflection, contemplation, repentance, and spiritual discipline. We find the beginning of lent in Ash Wednesday, followed by five weeks of Lenten study (being held at the Yates City church's sanctuary.) I encourage you to find the words of this hymn and use them as a study in your devotional time. For when we truly realize that God, through Jesus Christ, has done everything for us, we can only give him our praise and thanks!

Blessings,

Pastor Marla

First United Presbyterian Church, Elmwood, IL
Session Meeting Minutes December 7, 2023

A regular meeting of the Session of First United Presbyterian Church of Elmwood was held in the Fellowship Hall on December 7, 2023. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Mike Shissler at 6:30p.m.

Elders present: 2023 – Emily Roberts and Mike Shissler
2024 – Calie Stalter
2025 – Anita Asbell

constituting a quorum. Absent were Julie Barrett, Brett Stevens and Steve Winslow. Rev. Marla Bauler moderated the meeting. The guidelines for a quorum were established at the January 13, 2022 Session Meeting as the presence of 50% of currently serving Elders.

Elder Training: Mike Shissler: In the spirit of Thankfulness, "Humbled by the unbelievable love and sacrifice of God."

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

The Deacons Report dated November 12, 2023 was reviewed.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for November 2023 was reviewed. Approved.

Barrett Farm check has not been received.

Annual Budget was presented to Session. Motion made, Seconded and Approved.

Motion was made to close the Memorial Fund and move funds to Operations. Seconded. Approved.

Note: \$20,000 moved from our investments into operations. \$10,000 for July 2023 (we are tardy doing this) and \$10,000 for January 2024. (Authorized by Session on 12/19/21)

Clerk's Report

The minutes from the November 9, 2023 Session meeting and the November 19, 2023 & December 3, 2023 Special Congregational Meeting minutes were reviewed & approved.
No Correspondence to review.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Marla gave a formal report which listed her monthly ministry activities.

Communion was served to 28 members of the congregation on December 3, 2023.

Request for time off February 5 to 15, 2024 was requested. Motion made, seconded, approved.

November 19, 2023 was the installation of new members Dianne & Tony Morton and Diane & Larry Criswell.

Committee Reports

Finance/Personnel: Chair – Emily Roberts

Finance: See Treasurer's Report.

Personnel: No report.

Worship/Membership/Christian Ed: Co-Chairs – Calie Stalter & Anita Asbell

Worship: Committee met on December 3, 2023.

Advent readers have been chosen: Criswells, Meyers, Stevens, Winslows and Welkers/Asbell.

Discussed Cookie Exchange for December 10, 2023.

Will begin planning for the December 31, 2023 5th Sunday Service.

Membership: Four new members have been added to the roles.

Christian Ed: Adult Sunday School reports the following financial accounting:

Beginning Balance as of November 1, 2023 = \$3,828.78.

Deposits: \$61; \$60; \$41; \$31

Ending Balance as of November 30, 2023 = \$4,021.78.

Missions: Co-Chairs – Mike Shissler & Brett Stevens

Meeting to be held on December 12, 2023.

Marketing and Evangelism: Chair – Brett Stevens

Have received the new video/audio mechanism for Zoom and after a bit of tweaking, it is working well.

Building and Grounds: Chair – Steve Winslow; Asst. – Julie Barrett

Have lined up snow removal team.

New Business

Motion to appoint Elder Steve Winslow as chair of Nominating Committee, seconded, approved.

The 2023 Budget was reviewed. A motion made to table the approval of the budget until the January meeting. Seconded. Approved.

There being no further business to come before the session, the meeting adjourned with a short prayer offered by Pastor Marla at 7:45 p.m.

The next session meeting is January 11, 2024 with Devotions & Prayers by Pastor Marla.

Submitted with prayer by,

Anita W. Asbell
Clerk of the Session
bdt

Moderator,

Rev. Marla Bauler