



The First Word

February 16, 2012

FROM
THE
PASTOR



A Season of Lament

la·ment (lă-mĕnt')

v. la·ment·ed, la·ment·ing, la·ments

v.tr.

1. To express grief for or about; mourn: lament a death.
 2. To regret deeply; deplore: He lamented his thoughtless acts.
- v.intr.
1. To grieve audibly; wail.
 2. To express sorrow or regret.
- n.
1. A feeling or an expression of grief; a lamentation.
 2. A song or poem expressing deep grief or mourning.

During the 40 days of Lent, prayers of confession and lament become even more integral to our daily devotions. Our focus in worship will turn towards lament as we prepare for our last lent in the Main Street building and sanctuary. It will be a season of lament. I believe we often forget to lament, or move through grief much too fast. From February 22 until April 8th, our focus will be on lamenting.

During this season of lament I encourage you to discover or deepen your daily devotions. You may wish to pray the same prayer every day, until it becomes as familiar as breathing. Or perhaps you might choose a new prayer for each week of Lent, or pray through a different Psalm of Confession or Psalm of Lament each day. Here are some suggestions as we go into the 1st week of Lent.

For the week of February 19th

The Lord's Prayer

*"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."*

Psalm 139 (NRSV)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely....

Teresa of Avila - 16th century Spanish mystic and writer

This is the method of prayer I then used: Since I could not reflect discursively with the intellect, I strove to picture Christ within me, and it did me great good—in my opinion—to picture him in those scenes where I saw him more alone... The scene of his prayer in the garden, especially, was a comfort to me; I strove to be his companion there. If I could, I thought of the sweat and agony he had undergone in that place. I desired to wipe away the sweat he so painfully experienced, but I recall that I never dared to actually do it, since my sins appeared to me so serious. I remained with him as long as my thoughts allowed me to, for there were many distractions that tormented me. Most nights for many years before going to bed, when I commended myself to God in preparation for sleep, I always pondered for a little while this episode of prayer in the garden. (Teresa of Avila: Mystical Writings; Crossroad, 1994)

Blessings,
Beth



I would like to express my appreciation to all for your support and friendship over the past 6 1/2 years. First Pres has meant a lot to me and I carry many wonderful memories.

The choir is wonderful. I doubt if I will ever again work with such a talented, committed and compassionate group of people. My hope for you is that each one of you finds another choir home that deserves you and that you deserve, whether it be as a group, or individually.

My thoughts and prayers are with First Pres as I move forward to Willow Creek Presbyterian and you move ahead on your journey.

Elizabeth LaGrande O'Leary

Liz's last day at First Presbyterian Church will be Sunday, February 19. Immediately following the worship service please join us in the dining room for a reception for Liz.

Financial Report—January 31, 2012
General Fund
Year to Date

Jan 1:	Beginning Balance	\$7,535.57
	<u>Income:</u>	
	Pledges	\$9,803.00
	Other income	3,007.37
	Transfers Trust Fund	13,000.00
	Totals	\$25,810.37
	<u>Expenses:</u>	
	General Budget	\$28,444.10
	Transfer designated	0.00
	Totals	\$28,444.10
January 31:	Ending Balance	\$8,333.04



Sunday School Rotations
Located in First Fruits Education Wing

We will be studying Peter. Each week we will learn the story of Peter in a new and fun way. Join us!

February 19	Bible	Roger Greenlaw
February 26	Cooking	Mary Makulec
March 4	Music	Marsha Martin
March 11	Party Games	Holly Beeman

Christian Learning Academy
(Sunday School for Adults)

"The Wired Word"
 Bridge Clinic Waiting Room

This is a timely and relevant curriculum that explores recent topics in the news from a faith perspective. The curriculum is emailed to you each week if you sign up ahead of time - or just drop in and we will have photocopies of the week's lesson.

“Just 4 Fun”

CYT “Beauty & The Beast”
Sunday, March 11, 2:00 p.m.
Maddox Theater—Rockford College
Ticket Cost - \$9

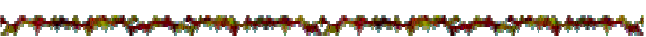
Sally will order tickets on February 24! Please place your order with Sally.

Student Led Worship
&
Puppet Show
Sunday, March 18





**ASH WEDNESDAY
TAIZÉ PRAYER
SERVICE**
February 22, 2012
7:00 p.m.



The Transition Calendar for 2012
(Subject to change at any time!)

- February-April —Scouts are sent out to 2nd Congregational and 3rd Presbyterian to visit the churches and experience worship, education and fellowship events. Scouts would agree to visit both congregations.
- May—Scouts report back to Transitional Team and a report is made to the congregation about findings.
- June—Decision is made about our future location and how we will go about making the move/ merger.
- July-Nov —Move/ Merger Talks occur. Joint worship experiences and activities.
- December 30, 2012—Last Sunday worship at 406 N. Main occurs.

Starting in mid-January we will be scheduling “cleaning out the church” workdays. Watch the First Updates and Friday email updates for more information.

**MARINERS
Tropics and Sweets!**



Escape the cold and spend some time in the tropics! Join First Presbyterian Church’s Mariner Group for our February event. Saturday, February 18th at 1:30 we will meet at the Nicholas Conservatory for a guided group tour. Cost of the tour is \$5.00/person. Following our tour and time enjoying the Conservatory, we will meet in the First Pres. dining room to enjoy fellowship and dessert.

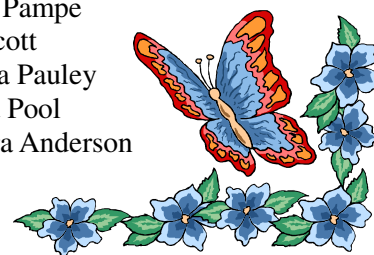


February Birthdays!

- 19 Naomi Huffman
Shirley Thompson
- 20 Cindy Maschke
Alan Rowald
- 21 David Smith
- 22 Donna Larson
Tiffany Rowald
Nathan Wyeth
- 25 Mary Makulec
Hope Sutherland
- 26 Nicole Lundeen
- 27 Elizabeth Munn
Valarie Van Winter
- 28 Richard Spencer
- 29 Shannon Henderson

March Birthdays!

- 01 Susan Dodillet
- 02 Robert Bailey
Michelle Geordt
- 03 Rebecca Dallavo
- 04 Mandy Howard
Rita Langford
Jon Moore
Bill Zartman
- 05 James Cotter
- 07 Rev. Beth Wagner
- 08 Nancy Gallegos
- 09 Alice Pampe
- 11 Pat Scott
- 13 Donna Pauley
- 16 Linda Pool
- 17 Sandra Anderson



EMERGENCY CLOSING

Following are the TV and radio stations to listen to in case of an emergency closing of First Presbyterian Church:

TV: Channel 23 WIFR
RADIO Stations:
WNTA-AM 1330
WROK-AM 1440
WZOK-FM 97.5
WXXQ-FM 98.5
WKGL-FM 96.7



The Flower Chart for 2012 has been posted on the wall outside the Fulton Room. If you would like to have flowers on a Sunday that's open, just sign your name on the chart. Cost of flowers is \$32.

Soup Kitchen Dates for 2012

Please mark your calendars!

Saturday, May 5
Saturday, July 21
Saturday, October 13
Saturday, December 8



Thank You! **Wednesday Night Cook Teams**

February 22 Bob & Rita Langford
February 29 Shirley Thompson & Vera Edmonds
March 7 Shirley Thompson & Vera Edmonds
March 14 Ed & Mary Conklin



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 11!

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 10th.

WEDNESDAY ENRICHMENT

Now thru March 14

Schedule

First Hands Puppets rehearsal: 4:45 - 5:45 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
Classes: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

ENRICHMENT DINNER

6:00—6:45 p.m.

\$5 per person/\$15 max per family

The best meal at the best deal in town will be on Wednesdays. Reservations must be received by noon on Monday. Call the church office and make your reservations. If you wish to make a standing reservation for the remainder of the meals please do so. If you already have a standing reservation and are unable to attend the dinner, please call to cancel by noon on Monday.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Option 1: "Faith at the End of Your Fork"

Class Leader: David Jones

This study is about food justice issues. It is based on the book by Anna Lappe, "Diet for a Hot Planet." The class will also prepare participants to attend an event on April 28 in which Anna Lappe will be the keynote speaker. If you would like to order the book please contact David Jones at (815) 540-3703, or emailing him at (davidj6226@aol.com).

Option 2: "Bad Girls of the Bible"

Class Leader: Joyce Pogue

Enjoy this humorous book and lively discussion. Learn from the mistakes made by the Bible's notorious "bad girls." Author Liz Curtis Higgs offers a unique and clear sighted approach to understanding these women. She combines a contemporary retelling of solid, verse-by-verse study of their mistakes and what lessons we can learn from them.

More detailed information on these two classes will be printed in the First Presbyterian Winter 2012 Activity Guide that will be available in early January.

Upcoming Events
at
Third Presbyterian Church
1221 Custer Avenue

Annual Lenten Breakfast
Sponsored by
Third Presbyterian Church Women

March 7, 2012
9:15 a.m.

Come and enjoy a full breakfast.
Our program will be by Joyce Winters
“Dramatic presentation of the woman
Jesus met at the well in Sychar”

Cost: Freewill Offering

Youth Theme Luncheon
Sunday, March 11, 2012 after church
Benefits youth activities

Family-Style Roast Beef Dinner
Sponsored by
Third Presbyterian Church

Saturday, March 24, 2012
Serving from 5:00—7:00 p.m.

Adults: \$9.00
Children (5-10 yrs): \$4.00
Ages 4 and under: Free
Advanced reservations required.

Call: Kay at 815-962-4753 or
Sandy at 815-397-3650 or
Church Office 815-962-7889

2012 MARINERS SCHEDULE

March 10

Corned Beef and Cabbage
Hosted by Conklins and Vernams

June 9

Haiti Speaker

June 30: (to take place of July 14)

Picnic at Dick & Donna Larson's
Fireworks @ Tullocks Woods

August 11

Picnic and Sing-Along
Hostess: Marilyn Hartzog

September 8

Turkey Roast
Hosts: Conklins at their home

December 8

Caroling to Shut-ins & Potluck

First Presbyterian Church

406 N. Main
Rockford, IL 61103
Voice: 815-968-0478
Website: www.firstpresrockford.com

All the People, Ministers

Rev. Beth Wagner
Transitional Pastor
revbeth@firstpresrockford.com

Sally Borgetti

Christian Education Director
sally@firstpresrockford.com

Elizabeth LaGrande O'Leary

Music Director
liz@firstpresrockford.com

Valarie Van Winter, Administrative Assistant

valarie@firstpresrockford.com



Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush. ~Doug Larson

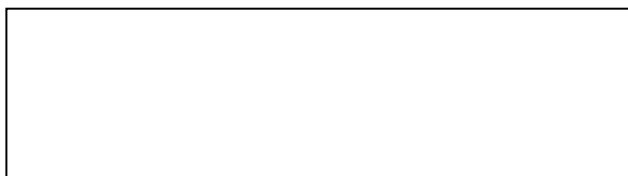
In the spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of weather inside of four and twenty hours. ~Mark Twain



First Presbyterian Church
406 North Main
Rockford, IL 61103

NON PROFIT ORG.
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 ROCKFORD, IL
 PERMIT NO. 1581

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p><u>Saturday, February 18</u> 9:00 a.m. Property Committee All-Work Morning 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic 1:30 p.m. Mariners <u>Sunday, February 19</u> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning <u>Tuesday, February 21</u> 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:30 p.m. Session <u>Wednesday, February 22</u> 4:45 p.m. First Hands Puppets 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service <u>Thursday, February 23</u> 9:30 a.m. First Carillon Ringers 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice <u>Saturday, February 25</u> 8:00 a.m. Mendelssohn 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic 11:00 a.m. Highway & Hedges 7:00 p.m. Charlotte's Web <u>Sunday, February 26</u> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, February 28</u> 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:30 p.m. Guiding Team <u>Wednesday, February 29</u> 4:45 p.m. First Hands Puppets 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner 7:00 p.m. Enrichment Programs <u>Thursday, March 1</u> 9:30 a.m. First Carillon Ringers 1:00 p.m. AFSCME 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice <u>Friday, March 2</u> 1:00 p.m. Horizon Bible Study <u>Saturday, March 3</u> 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic <u>Sunday, March 4</u> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning <u>Tuesday, March 6</u> 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:30 p.m. Guiding Team <u>Wednesday, March 7</u> 4:45 p.m. First Hands Puppets 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner 7:00 p.m. Enrichment Programs</p>	<p><u>Thursday, March 8</u> 9:30 a.m. First Carillon Ringers 12:00 p.m. First Word Deadline 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice <u>Saturday, March 10</u> 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic <u>Sunday, March 11</u> 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 11:00 a.m. Sunday Learning <u>Tuesday, March 13</u> 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee <u>Wednesday, March 14</u> 4:45 p.m. First Hands Puppets 6:00 p.m. Enrichment Dinner 7:00 p.m. Enrichment Programs <u>Thursday, March 15</u> 9:30 a.m. First Carillon Ringers 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice <u>Saturday, March 17</u> 10:00 a.m. Bridge Clinic</p>
---	---	---