

November 26 & December 3, 2017

MARK'S MESSAGE

60 Seconds of Affirmation

In his book *Foremen: Leaders or Drivers?*

Sherman Rogers describes a summer he spent in an Idaho logging camp. Rogers was just a college student, but since he was training for leadership, the superintendent put him in charge of the workers when he had to step away for a few days.

"What if the men refuse to follow my orders?"

Rogers asked. He was generally concerned about his young age and relative inexperience. But Rogers was especially anxious about Tony, an immigrant worker who seemed afflicted by a permanent bad attitude. *"Fire them,"* the superintendent said.

Then, as if reading Rogers' mind, he added, *"I suppose you think you are going to fire Tony if you get the chance. I'd feel badly about that. I have been logging for 40 years. Tony is the most reliable worker I've ever had. I know he is a grouch and that he hates everybody and everything. But he comes in first and leaves last. There has not been an accident for eight years on the hill where he works."*

The next day Rogers immediately approached Tony. *"I was going to fire you the first time we tangled, but I want you to know I'm not."* Then he told Tony what the superintendent had said about him the day before. Tony dropped the shovelful of sand he was holding. Tears streamed down his face. *"Why he no tell me dat eight years ago?"* he said in broken English.

Tony worked harder than ever that day. He even smiled. He later confided to Rogers, *"I told Maria you first foreman in deese country who ever say, 'Good work, Tony,' and it make Maria feel like Christmas."*

At summer's end, Rogers returned to college. He crossed paths with Tony twelve years later in California. He was delighted to learn that Tony had become superintendent for railroad construction for one of the largest logging companies in the West. He asked Tony how the doors of opportunity had swung open. Tony replied, *"If it not be for the one minute you talk to me back in Idaho, I keel somebody someday. One minute, she change my whole life."*

(continued on page 2)



INDEX

PAGE 2

CHURCH OFFICE
PRAYER
BIRTHDAYS

PAGE 3

A THOUGHT
FROM KEITH

PAGE 4

COMMUNITY

PAGE 5

FOODBANK/NEW
BEGINNINGS
CHRISTIAN ED.
POINSETTIAS

PAGE 6

PARISH
PERSONALS
'ROUND-THE-
TABLE

PAGE 7

CALENDAR

PAGE 8

SESSION
SNIPPET

(continued from page 1)

The power of just 60 seconds of affirmation is unbelievable. Just one minute! Have you got one minute to thank someone? One minute to tell someone what you sincerely like or appreciate about her? A minute to elaborate on something he did well? One minute. It can make a difference for a lifetime.

During the busyness of the holiday season, take one minute – 60 seconds – to make a difference in someone's life.

In Christ's Affirming Love,



CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

Chimes Note

Deadline for next issue of *Chimes* will be **10:00 a.m. Monday, December 4**, for the issue covering December 10-23.

Chancel Flower Calendar

November 26, December 10, 24, 31 and January 7 are open on the Chancel Flower Calendar. If you would like to provide flowers for worship one of these days, please contact Janice in the church office: janice@fpchurch.org or 665-5549, ext. 106 (afternoons), by the preceding Monday.

Annual Reports

It's time to start thinking about annual committee reports. **They will be due in the church office Wednesday, December 27.** Please email reports to rita@fpchurch.org.

Year-End Notice

Final payments for 2017 must be received by **January 2, 2018** to be included on the 2017 contribution tax statement. Checks must be dated no later than 12/31/2017.

KEEP IN PRAYER

For those in the hospital or hurting

- David & Pam Anderson, Jim Anderson and families on the death of Louisa Anderson

For all FPC shut-ins

For First Presbyterian Church, McPherson

(11/26/17)

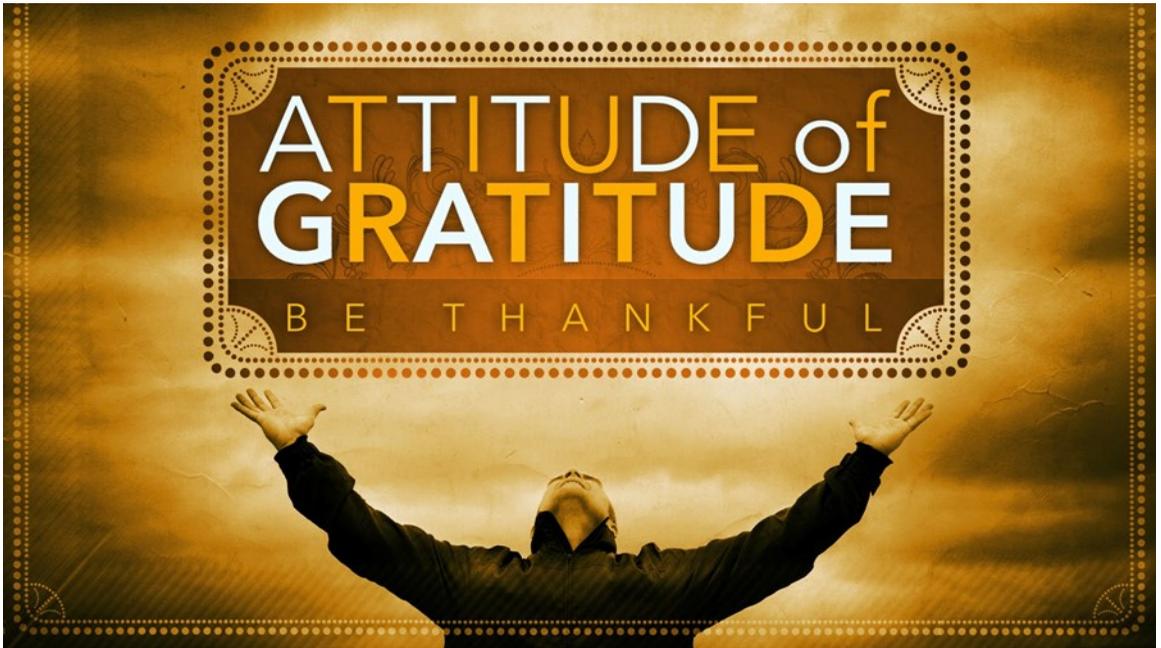
For First United Presbyterian Church, Medicine

Lodge (12/03/17)

BIRTHDAYS

26	Martin Miller	5	Jamie Schultz
30	Liz Klamm	6	Kennedy Schuessler
1	Bob Fee	7	Joe Dower
3	Ruth Dillon	7	Doris Kimmel
4	Jack Fee	7	Tyler Westfall
4	Tom Lappin	8	Abbie Welu
5	Jessica Keast	9	Kim Fee





Thanksgiving comes once per year, but for Christians, giving thanks is to be part of our daily lifestyle. Scripture commands us to thank and praise the Lord, and promises great blessings—including health and strength—to those who do. You are blessed as a nation to have a day set aside to be thankful. This has served you well for many years, as you recall all that God has done to bless and preserve the United States.

Thanksgiving helps keep a nation. As Christians, we should never tire of praising God for what He has done for us.

This Thanksgiving, I invite you to take your eyes off your circumstances and look to Christ, the greatest gift from God our Father in heaven, who gives us “every good gift and every perfect gift.” As a practical step, make a list of the things you’re grateful for, including health, spiritual and material blessings, and relationships in your life. Then put this list somewhere you will see it often.

This world has many ways to bring us down, but as Christians we can always celebrate what’s good and right, and that God gives us life—and life to the full!

Press in for that life. Speak it in faith, and celebrate every blessing you’ve received, thanking God that there’s more to come. You may even want to hold a time of sharing around your Thanksgiving table this year, asking people to write and share what they’re thankful for.

Gratefulness can be contagious! Don’t let this opportunity pass you by. Start a new habit of gratefulness this year—and cultivate it as a daily lifestyle. You’ll be *glad* you did!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Circles of Hope

Circles of Hope-Reno County is a community initiative helping families with limited resources better their circumstances. We call it an initiative because it is a long-term solution to a long-term problem. A Circles of Hope Ally is an advocate for a Circle Leader, walking beside them during the time immediately following completion of the training program. It is a critical period for Circle Leaders when they need support and guidance in order to reach their goals.

We are currently seeking caring individuals to serve as Allies. As an Ally, you will provide support not only to a Circle Leader, but also have the opportunity to promote collaboration and advocacy in our community. If you would like to become an Ally, please contact:

Marla McKee

Ally Recruitment Coordinator, Circles of Hope-Reno County
mckeemarla1@gmail.com — 620-669-7569

Tinsel and Tears

A Holiday Workshop for Grieving Families

Sunday, December 3, 2:00-4:00 p.m.~ Hutchinson Regional Medical Center

Hospice and HomeCare of Reno County is inviting all school age children (K-12) who have experienced the death of a loved one to attend our Tinsel and Tears event. For questions or to RSVP, call by November 28: (620)665-2473 ~ www.HospiceRenoCounty.com.

Care Portal

After a few weeks of less activity, the requests for Care Portal assistance are picking up once again. We have purchased two Walmart gift cards for families needing a variety of supplies. Then last week we partnered with First Mennonite Church of Pretty Prairie to purchase and install a new hot water heater for a grandmother who had her teenage grandson living with her. For several weeks they have had to shower at a friend's home. The day before the water heater was put in, the grandma was also awarded temporary custody of 4 and 8 year old cousins of the teenager. It was heart-warming to hear her excitement and gratitude at once again having hot water available.

With Christmas and winter approaching, we know the needs of these families will be increasing. We continue to appreciate the continued support of FPC Portal Presbys for a quick and efficient way to answer these requests. Thanks to all of you!





PARISH PERSONALS

- Dear First Presbyterian Church:

On behalf of the Hutchinson School Board of Education, I would like to convey our thanks and appreciation for your donation of t-shirts and a Lace Bark Elm tree to Lincoln Elementary School for staff and grounds. We are especially grateful for the generosity and support of our patrons. Thank you for your continued support of our schools. Sincerely, Gary Price, Superintendent of Schools

- Dear Mark,

Thank you for your gift in support of Ministry Teams. Our family of students, faculty and staff appreciate your belief in the unique mission of *developing creative and thoughtful leaders who understand a maturing Christian faith*. By His Grace and For His Glory, Scott A. Rich, President, Sterling College

- Thank you to all the Deacons who helped us serve the hungry at the Soup Kitchen November 16. Anne Sellers helped us prepare, cook the meal and prepare carry-outs for our delivery drivers, Martin Miller, Ed & Marj Johnson and Amanda Jackson with the help of Will and Kate. Ann Sellers helped us serve and while Donna Kelley is not a Deacon, we appreciate her willingness each month to help serve those in-house. Bottom line, we appreciate so much all volunteers who give of their time to help us minister to the hungry in our community. — Gene & Arlene Becker

- Deepest sympathy is extended to David & Pam Anderson and Jim Anderson and families. Louisa Anderson died November 20 at Hospice House.

'ROUND-THE-TABLE CAROL SING

'Round-the-Table Carol Sing

Christmas would not be the same without singing carols and sharing food together. So come and enjoy this much-loved tradition at FPC on Sunday, December 10, at 5:30 p.m. It is for all of our church family and friends.

Please remember to bring a candle for your table and your own place settings. We will sing Christmas carols and have a short Nativity that our children will dress up for.

Meat will be furnished. Please bring a side dish (salad, vegetable or bread). Wassail and cookies will also be served. Our youth will be busy bussing tables for TIPS to support upcoming youth projects.

Come and enjoy an evening with family and friends!



CALENDAR — NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 10

Sunday, November 26, 2017

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Carol Weidensaul, 669-8661

Preacher Keith Neill: Matthew 6:33 (8:15, 9:00 & 10:30)

- 8:15 am Worship service Chapel
- 8:45-10:15 ReFresh Café open Refresh Café
- 9:00 am Worship service/Kidz Church Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Chancel Choir Chapel
- 9:30 am Adult Christian Education
- 10:30 am Worship service/Kidz Church Sanctuary
- 11:30 am Fellowship time Parlor
- 11:30-12:00 Book store open Parlor

Monday, November 27

- 8:30 am Exercise class Kids' Cave
- 12:00-7:00 Blood drive Calvin Hall
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 301 Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 28

- 9:00 am Koinonia Women Large Conference Rm
- 11:00-6:00 Blood drive Calvin Hall
- 1:30 pm Bible study Becker's house
- 3:00 pm Reno Co. Health Equity Large Conf Rm

Wednesday, November 29

- 7:00-1:00 Blood drive Calvin Hall
- 8:30 am Exercise class Kids' Cave
- 9:00 am Staff meeting Conference Room
- 3:30 pm LOGOS
- 7:00 pm Confirmation class/Youth The Alley

Thursday, November 30

- 7:00 am Men's Bible study Parlor

Friday, December 1

- 9:00 am Walk-a-mile class Kids' Cave

Sunday, December 3—1st Sunday of Advent

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Dianne Coons, 669-9258

Preacher Mark Miller (8:15 & 10:30): Luke 1:26-38

Preacher Keith Neill (9:00): Matthew 28:19-20

- 8:15 am Worship service Chapel
- 8:45-10:15 ReFresh Café open Refresh Café
- 9:00 am Worship service/Kidz Church Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Chancel Choir Chapel
- 9:30 am Adult Christian Education
- 10:30 am Worship service/Kidz Church Sanctuary
- 11:30 am Fellowship time Parlor
- 11:30-12:00 Book store open Parlor

Monday, December 4

- 8:30 am Exercise class Kids' Cave
- 9:30 am Book study Large Conference Room
- 4:00 pm Music staff meeting Conference Room
- 5:30 pm Worship Committee Conference Room
- 7:00 pm Worship practice Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 301 Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 5

- 9:00 am Koinonia Women Large Conference Rm

Wednesday, December 6

- 8:30 am Exercise class Kids' Cave
- 9:00 am Staff meeting Conference Room
- 12:00 pm Building & Grounds Conference Room
- 6:15 pm Confirmation class Large Conf Room
- 7:00 pm Youth Group The Basement

Thursday, December 7

- 7:00 am Men's Bible study Parlor
- 12:00 pm Congregational Connections Conf Rm

Friday, December 8

- 9:00 am Walk-a-mile class Kids' Cave

Sunday, December 10—2nd Sunday of Advent

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Mel Dower, 663-4639

Preacher Mark Miller (8:15 & 10:30): Isaiah 9:6; Col. 3:15

Preacher Keith Neill (9:00): Luke 2:8-20

- 8:15 am Worship service Chapel
- 8:45-10:15 ReRefresh Café open Refresh Café
- 9:00 am Worship service/Kidz Church Sanctuary
- 9:15 am Chancel Choir Chapel
- 9:30 am Adult Christian Education
- 10:30 am Worship service/Kidz Church Sanctuary
- 11:30 am Fellowship time Parlor
- 11:30-12:00 Book store open Parlor
- 5:30 pm 'Round-the-Table Carol Sing Calvin Hall, Fellowship Hall



*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*



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SESSION SNIPPET

The Session met last Monday night and reports from committees indicate that all areas of the church are functioning well and moving into the activities for the coming Advent season. The first two weeks of the new contemporary service have been successful with enthusiastic participation and attendance and the two other services are maintaining their numbers too.

The membership committee has completed their work of going through the rolls and sending out cards to those who have not attended worship or made financial contributions in the last three years. Over 70 names have been now deleted from our membership, either by request of the person or by the fact of not having heard back from many of them. This will make a significant reduction in the per capita amount we pay to Presbytery for our active membership, effective 2019. Discussion was held on looking at security issues for the church, both during worship hours and during the week.