

April 2 & 9, 2017

MARK'S MESSAGE

## Famous Last Words

Most people never get a chance to leave behind famous last words. It's difficult, after all, to script our own final dialogue. But there are exceptions.

Union General John Sedgwick was arranging his troops before the Battle of Spotsylvania in 1864. When his men warned him about Confederate snipers in the area he famously replied, *"They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance."* Richard B. Mellon, the multi-millionaire president of Alcoa, had played an off-and-on game of tag with his brother Andrew for some 70 years! On his deathbed, Richard called Andrew over to his side, reached out, touched him, whispered *"Last tag!"* and then died.

Charles Gussman, the famous TV announcer for *Days of Our Lives*, took off his oxygen mask while lying on his hospital bed and said, *"And now for a final word from our sponsor."* Malcom X shouted to a rowdy New York City auditorium, *"Brothers! Brothers, please! This is a house of peace!"* Then he fell to an assassin's bullets. And then there's Steve Jobs. According to his sister Mona, his final words were: *"Oh wow, oh wow, oh wow."* We presume he was experiencing something even more paradigm-shifting than the debut of a new Apple product.

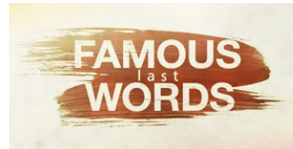
So what about the last words of Jesus? We know of at least seven statements that Jesus made from the cross. The most poignant and powerful is this one: *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

Tim Keller, the pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, New York, points out that as Jesus is dying He doesn't scream, *"My friends, my friends,"* or *"My head, my head."* Everyone present (with the probable exception of the Roman soldiers who crucified him), knew that *"My God, my God"* were the opening words of Psalm 22, where David the King agonizes in the pain of his suffering and loss. *"My God"* is the language of intimacy. Think of the way we might say, *"That's my daughter Jenni,"* or *"That's my son Brian."*

Keller writes: *"If after a service some Sunday morning one of the members of my church comes up to me and says, 'I never want to see you or talk to you again,' I will feel pretty bad. But if today my wife comes up to me and says, 'I never want to see you or talk to you again,' that's [overwhelmingly] worse. The longer the love, the deeper the love, the greater the torment of loss."*

Think about the fact that *"this forsakenness, this loss, was between the Father and the Son, who had loved each other from all eternity. This love was infinitely long, absolutely perfect, and Jesus was losing it... Jesus, the Maker of the world, was being unmade. Why? Jesus was experiencing our Judgment Day."* A special word was even coined to express such pain. It is *excruciating*, which literally means *"out of the cross."*

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We welcome a new member to First Presbyterian Church. **Laura Harrison** joined because “The people are so nice, welcoming and seem glad we are here.” Laura likes the variety of music and the family friendly atmosphere.

Her son Harry, a 2nd grader at Holy Cross Elementary, is involved in LOGOS, attended the Sports Camp for Kids last summer and “Sure thinks Miss Julia (Johnson) is awesome!” Don’t we all???

Laura grew up in Nickerson, graduated from Kansas State, lived on the East Coast and Kansas City before returning to Reno County. She won’t admit to being an entrepreneur but Laura has her own business — Crutch Caps. Having been on crutches for a time, she has developed grips, under-arm pads, bags, etc., to ease some of the challenges with crutches.

Laura also does monogramming for Absolutely Flowers and clients in Kansas City. AND, she can make delicious, beautiful cookies which she has already done for the church.

How wonderful to have Laura join us and what a pleasure it will be to watch Harry grow and thrive.

Welcome and thank you for being a part of all of us.

## PARISH PERSONALS

- Deepest sympathy goes out to Julie & Tedd Kimmel and family. Julie’s mother, Alice Stoughton, died March 17 in Hutchinson.
- Deacons and others helped us serve 102 hungry, grateful people at the Soup Kitchen on the third Thursday in March. Helping us prepare and cook the meal was Pastor Mark; servers were Donna Kelley, Misti McLain and daughters Olivia and Fiona. Driving the carry-out routes were Ed & Marj Johnson, Martin Miller, Denise Hallman, Anne Sellers, Kriss Fee and Shari Schuessler. Thank you to everyone who helped us fulfill our mission of serving the needy in our community. — Gene & Arlene Becker
- Dear First Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you for the continued support in my college education. Your scholarship assists my goals in graduating from Kansas State University, and helps me purchase books and other class materials. I hope you all have a blessed day! Sincerely, Jason Klamm

## AMISH DINNER

The Social Committee has organized dinner at Yoder’s Kitchen. Wonderful Amish home cooking is prepared and served by Fanny Yoder and her daughters. **Time:** 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 13. **Cost:** \$18.50 per person and you will pay there. No credit cards accepted. **Reservations turned in to Rita (rita@fpchutch.org, 665-5549, ext. 101) by April 6.** There is room for only 50 people so get your reservations in!!!!

**Menu:** Chicken, Roast Beef, Homemade Bread, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Chicken & Noodles, Cole Slaw, Tea & Coffee, Three Kinds of Pie: Apple, Chocolate Cream, Peanut Butter Cream.

**Directions:** 7016 E. Red Rock Road. Go south toward Yoder on Airport Road (Yoder hwy). Go to Red Rock (the street right before grade school) and turn left. Go 2 3/4 mile and their home is on the left. There is a sign that says “Yoder’s Kitchen”.



reset

A THOUGHT FROM KEITH

## I Need To Hit The Refresh Button

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

It never fails. The moment I sit down to work at my computer, I’m interrupted.

I tend to multi-task, so I can be trying to do 3 or 4 different things at one time. As a result, I often have multiple websites open. That’s when the interruptions start.

I have to leave what I was doing and after quite a while I finally return to my computer. As it awakens I notice the opened websites look exactly the same as when I left them all that time ago. Untouched. Unchanged. Suspended in time. But as soon as I hit the refresh button, all the information on the untouched, unchanged, suspended-in-time pages turns instantly current. I feel that for many of us this is the way we feel at different times of our lives. We need refreshed, we need to refocus and we need to take a look at what our priorities are and where God fits in to them. A similar thing happens when we leave our Bibles untouched and then begin reading again. As we read in today’s key verse, God’s Word is “alive and active.” Reading it refreshes our souls and can touch and change our lives.

Recently while I was reading Psalm 23, King David’s words became alive and active. It felt like God hit the refresh button in my spirit to show me the current application of this familiar Psalm. Can I share with you how I was refreshed by these six short verses? “The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.” (NLT)

Refreshed, these ancient words reminded me: He gives me all I need. (v1): He lets me rest. (v2): He leads me. (v2): He renews me. (v3): He guides me. (v3): He keeps me company. (v4): He protects me. (v4): He raises me up. (v5): He honors me. (v5): He pursues me. (v6): He will spend eternity with me. (v6) Do you need refreshed? This Spring Break, take the time to rest, recharge the batteries and draw close to God. I know I need to do so. God’s Word has power. Each time we read it, words penned thousands of years ago come to life over and over again! His Word is truly alive and active. God longs to touch and change our lives each day with His power. I just love God’s Word! And I pray if you don’t already, some day you will, too.

## CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

**Chimes Note**

Deadline for next issue of *Chimes* will be **Monday, April 10, 10:00 a.m.** That issue will cover April 16-29.

**Chancel Flower Calendar**

**April 16 (Easter), 23, May 7 and 14** are open on the 2017 Chancel Flower Calendar. If you would like to provide flowers for worship one of these days, please contact Marla in the church office at 665-5549, ext. 106, or marla@fpchutch.org or by the preceding Monday.

**KEEP IN PRAYER*****For those in the hospital or hurting***

- Julie & Tedd Kimmel and family, on the death of Julie's mother, Alice Stoughton

***For all FPC shut-ins******For all those affected by the wildfires***

***For First Presbyterian Church, Larned (4/02/17)***

***For Covenant Presbyterian Church, Wichita***

*(4/09/17)*

**BIRTHDAYS**

2	Nia Reneau	10	Laneah Knuth
2	Max Stewart	11	Laura Dick
3	Rose Albright	12	Jennifer Forker
4	Margaret Kennedy	12	Kathy Small
5	Chris Showalter	12	Jon Whitlow
6	Tedd Kimmel	13	Margaret Parks
7	Joe Ontjes	13	J.C. Petitjean
8	Braxton Bobo	14	Kevin Saenger
9	Claire Fee	15	Annie Fee
9	Judy Manka	15	Joe Wagner

**EASTER LILIES**

Easter lilies are again available for you to purchase in memory of, or thanksgiving for, loved ones. The cost is \$8.25 each. Simply fill out the form below, designate if you would like to pick up the plant or have it delivered to a shut-in, and return the form and payment to the church office. Easter lilies create a beautiful church for Easter services and brighten the day for many others! Thank you for participating in this ministry.

**Deadline is Monday, April 10.**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Easter lilies \_\_\_\_\_ at \$8.25 each

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** In thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

After worship on Easter:

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up \_\_\_\_\_ Take to a shut-in: *Fill in information below if you desire to designate:*

Name of recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**(Return with payment  
to the church office)**

**[Continued from front page]**

Think about the fact that *"this forsakenness, this loss, was between the Father and the Son, who had loved each other from all eternity. This love was infinitely long, absolutely perfect, and Jesus was losing it... Jesus, the Maker of the world, was being unmade. Why? Jesus was experiencing our Judgment Day."* A special word was even coined to express such pain. It is *excruciating*, which literally means *"out of the cross."*

So why would the Messiah, if He really were at the heart of God's will, ever have to suffer like this? Here's what we know: If you have ever felt utterly abandoned; if you've ever been betrayed by someone who once promised a never-ending love; if you've ever been cut off from the health and the hope that used to sustain you – then you can know that the One to whom you are entrusting yourself today knows how you feel. And He alone knows how to make you whole.

In Christ,



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

*"The Challenges of Life Together"*, Facilitated by Pastor Mark Miller, Large Conference Rm, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

*"The Wired Word"*, Facilitated by Bob Fee, Fellowship Hall, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

### "Great Day Every Day — Navigating Life's Challenges"

Our next small group book discussion is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, at 1:30 p.m. at Sam & Judy Ontjes' house. We will cover Chapter 4 of Max Lucado's book, "Great Day Every Day — Navigating Life's Challenges." All are welcome.

## SESSION SNIPPET

The March Session meeting was more like a lamb than a lion with quick reports from the committees and an adjournment time that was one of our shorter ones recently. And there wasn't even a basketball game that members were racing home to watch!

Activities for spring are filling up the FPC calendar. Logos will complete the second term for this year on April 12, and there will be a talent show we all are encouraged to attend. Social Committee is sponsoring the Amish Dinner outside Yoder on Thursday, April 13. (There are a few reservations still available. Please call Rita by April 6 to be added to the list.) Congregational Life will be serving their annual Easter breakfast and the butterfly release will follow the 10:30 a.m. worship.

Pastor Mark said that an all-city Good Friday service will be held at Park Place Christian Church at 12 noon on April 14. Three couples have requested their marriage ceremonies be held at FPC in the next several months. Mark will officiate at two of them, and the third will be a Mennonite service with their own pastor officiating. Session approval is required for any marriage service, and all motions were passed. Finance Committee reported that we are still about \$56,000 short of pledges to reach our 2017 goal.

The work of Session committees ensures that FPC continues to run smoothly and efficiently. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to visit with Pastor Mark or any Session member.

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received April 16 — Easter Sunday.**

### CARE PORTAL

In the last week we have had two Care Portal cases we were able to answer. I wrote about them in an email to Portal Presbys last Friday night but want to fill in the end of the stories for all FPC members. After searching out the location of a tiny apartment inside a large metal building several miles out of town, Ed and I were able to deliver a set of bunk beds, bedding and a set of cookware to a single mom with children, 10 and 12 years of age. The new mattresses were delivered the same afternoon. The mom was thrilled that the kids would no longer be sleeping on the floor. When I visited with her the next day, she reported that along with the new beds, she was surprised the kids were almost as excited about seeing the new red pots and pans. After dinner they told her, "Mom, this is the first REAL meal we've had since we moved in!" I can truly say that this was one of the most rewarding cases we've experienced as the mom was so grateful and proclaimed, "God has been good to us." Her faith in the Lord was very real.

Then the other case was the single father needing a pull-behind baby carrier for his 5-month old son. Within an hour of my email, I received a call from one of our newer younger members who had found one available at the WalMart in McPherson and wanted to purchase it. We made a quick trip up there and also were able to add an infant safety helmet and flag. The father has been working hard to ensure the baby won't be put into foster care and the caseworker is pleased with the advancements he is making in efforts at beginning a new life.

We delivered the items to the St. Francis social worker who will get them on to the father. I'm sure whenever we see a father with an old bike pulling a new cart with a small baby, we'll wonder if that's the Care Portal dad.

Thanks to all of you who include this worthwhile outreach in your FPC donations. It may be one or two small steps at a time, but we are helping to make a difference in the lives of some of the less fortunate people in Reno County. I have to agree with the mom in the first case, "God has been good to us!" — Marj Johnson

### FOOD BANK AND NEW BEGINNINGS

It's time again for our monthly donation to the Reno County Food Bank. They are requesting **canned chicken or tuna, juice, pancake mix and syrup**. You may leave those items at any of the entrances to First Presbyterian. We will pick them up on April 3. We also will collect donations for New Beginnings. Suggested items are: **magic erasers, dish soap, large black leaf trash bags, and tall kitchen bags**.

Thanks, The Deacons

*1 John 3:17-18 "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."*

**Sunday, April 2, 2017—Fifth Sunday in Lent**

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Bob Callahan, 727-3659

*Preacher Keith Neill (8:15); Choir "Requiem" (10:30)*

8:15 am	Worship service	Chapel
9:00 am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
9:00-10:15	ReFresh Café open	
9:30 am	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, April 3**

8:30 am	Exercise class	Calvin Hall
9:30 am	Book study	Large Conference Room
12:00-7:00	Blood drive	Calvin Hall
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, April 4**

9:00 am	Yoga	Parlor
9:00 am	Koinonia Women	Lg Conference Rm
11:00-6:00	Blood drive	Calvin Hall
1:30 pm	Bible study	Ontjes'

**Wednesday, April 5**

7:00-1:00	Blood drive	Calvin Hall
8:30 am	Exercise class	Fellowship Hall
9:00 am	Staff meeting	Large Conference Room
12:00 pm	Building & Grounds	Conference Room
3:30 pm	LOGOS	
7:00 pm	Youth group	The Basement

**Thursday, April 6**

7:00 am	Men's Bible study	Parlor
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**Friday, April 7**

9:00 am	Walk-a-mile class	Calvin Hall
7:00 pm	Jesse & Leah Roberts concert	Sanctuary

**Sunday, April 9—Palm Sunday**

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Anne Sellers, 663-4998

*Preacher Mark Miller: Matthew 21:6-17*

8:15 am	Worship service	Chapel
9:00 am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
9:00-10:15	ReFresh Café open	
9:30 am	Christian Education	

**Sunday, April 9, continued**

10:30 am	Worship service/Kidz Church	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship time	Parlor
11:30-12:00	Book store open	Parlor

**Monday, April 10**

8:30 am	Exercise class	Calvin Hall
5:15 pm	Mission Committee	Conference Room
6:30 pm	Board of Deacons	Lg Conference Rm
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 301	Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, April 11**

8:30 am	Yoga	Sunflower Studio
9:00 am	Koinonia Women	Lg Conference Rm

**Wednesday, April 12**

8:30 am	Exercise class	Calvin Hall
9:00 am	Staff meeting	Large Conference Room
3:30 pm	LOGOS	
7:00 pm	Youth group	The Basement

**Thursday, April 13—Maundy Thursday**

7:00 am	Men's Bible study	Parlor
10:00 am	Finance Committee	Conference Room
6:15 pm	Social Comm. dinner	Yoder's Kitchen

**Friday, April 14—Good Friday**

9:00 am	Walk-a-mile class	Calvin Hall
12:00 pm	Congregational Connections	Conf Rm
12:00 pm	Community Good Friday service	Park Place Christian Church

**Sunday, April 16—Easter**

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Misti McLain, 259-6977

*Preacher Mark Miller: Various Scriptures*

8:15 am	Worship service	Chapel
9:00 am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
9:30 am	Christian Education	
9:30 am	Easter breakfast	Fellowship Hall
10:30 am	Worship service	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Butterfly release	Outside
11:30 am	Fellowship time	Parlor
11:30-12:00	Book store open	Parlor





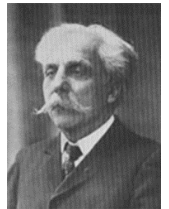
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## FAURÉ'S "REQUIEM"

**Special Music in Worship**  
**Sunday, April 2, 10:30 a.m. Service**  
**FPC Chancel Choir presents**  
***Fauré's Requiem***



*"People have said my Requiem did not express the terror of death; someone called it a 'lullaby of death.' But that's the way I perceive death: As a happy release and aspiration to the happiness of beyond, rather than a grievous passage."* — Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

French composer, organist, and choirmaster Gabriel Fauré was a student of Camille Saint-Saëns, and later a teacher to Ravel. He was a song composer of major importance; Fauré's *Requiem* remains a standard in choral repertoire, with its setting of funeral rites rather than the full traditional Requiem Mass.