

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
321 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET  
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS 62701

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Springfield, Illinois  
Permit #899

DEADLINE for April issue:  
March 15, 2006



FIRST PRES

# UPDATE

*The monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church*

*March 2006*

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

321 S. 7th Street  
Springfield Illinois 62701  
(217) 528-4311  
www.first-pres-church.org

### STAFF

**Clifford J. Hayes**, Pastor  
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**Nichol DelGiorno**, Director of Music  
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**Cindy Cass**, Office Manager  
cindy@first-pres-church.org  
**Pat Olson**, Bookkeeper  
pat@first-pres-church.org  
**Mike Self**, Security

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### WORSHIP/CLASSES

**Sundays:**  
9:00 a.m. Youth and Adult Programs  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sanctuary  
**Wednesdays:**  
5:30 p.m. Vespers

Please submit all information for inclusion in the newsletter to the church office to Cindy or Mike Orr at the e-mail addresses listed above.

Editorial Coordinator-Mike Orr  
Production-Cindy Cass

## CONGRATULATIONS CONGREGATION!! YOU MADE THE PLEDGE GOAL!!

The 2006 Pledge Campaign was a success. Thanks to many generous members and some last minute February Pledges, our results were \$305,559.80. We exceeded our goal by \$4,659.80! We were over last years pledges by \$14,389.00.

Thanks to everyone's generous giving we are able to continue our programs for another year.

We continue to strive towards having a balanced budget in the future.

Stewardship Chairs:  
Clark and Kay McKee

## First Presbyterian Church Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, March 5, 2006

The Annual Meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, March 5, 2006. Copies of the **annual report** were made available in advance. Please read the reports in advance, if possible.

The agenda will include a review of committee reports and voting on the terms of call of the pastors. The formal meeting will be followed by a **luncheon in Fellowship Hall** compliments of the Presbyterian Women. The menu will include: Baked Ham, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Potatoes Au Gratin, Rolls, and a choice of 3 desserts! This is a catered dinner so reservations are a must. Please call the church office at 528-4311 with your reservations by February 28. Cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. After lunch, staff and committee chairs will share key successes from the past year and plans and hopes for the new year.

Please plan to attend this important meeting and time for fellowship.

## Pastor's Column

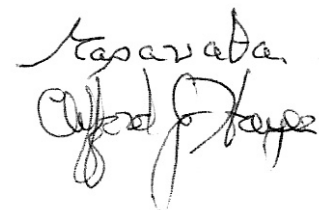
### “Choirmaster, please put this to music”

The prophet Habakkuk cries out in anguish, “*O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? How long before you save us from all this violence*” (Habakkuk 1:2) Habbakkuk’s prophesy ends with a prayer that is both anguished and heartfelt: “*Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation.*” (Habakkuk 3:17)

And then, after going as far as Habakkuk could go with words, the prophet stops. Not knowing what to say, maybe because there is nothing left to say – Habakkuk ends with a plea to . . . to a musician. Habakkuk makes his plea saying, “*Choirmaster, please put this to music.*” In essence he is saying, I need to reach a place – a place that words have no access to. I have said all that I can say. Choirmaster, I need music. I am praying to you God – let music take me deeper still into your mystery and grace. “Let the riddles of my life be solved in listening to the music of the harp.”

(Psalm 49:4 – paraphrased)

On the fifth Sunday in Lent, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, I will proclaim God’s word, giving two brief meditations. At the close of each meditation I will ask Dr. Rudolf Zuiderveld to put the word of God proclaimed to music . . . “*Choirmaster, please put this to music.*” *The music will be a bridge to . . .*



Kasarada  
Alfred J. Stayer

# MUSIC NEWS

**\*Lenten Brown Bag Series  
12:15-12:45 p.m.  
Wednesdays March 8-April 12**

March 8: Diane Dietz, soprano

March 15: Springfield Prairie Harps

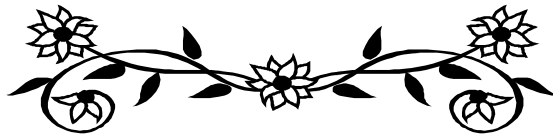
March 22: Isolde Davidson and  
Letitia Spelbring, flutes

March 29: John Hume, trumpet,  
with Rudolf Zuiderveld, organ

April 5: Early Music consort

April 12: First Presbyterian's Sanctuary Choir,  
featuring William Byrd's *Mass for Four Voices*

\*Brown Bag Recitals are free of charge,  
donations are accepted



## **Four Centuries of German Masterworks**

Jay Peterson, professor of music at MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois, and long-time friend of First Presbyterian Church, will perform a concert of German masterworks on the Brombaugh, Opus 35, at 7:00 p.m., Friday, March 17.

As a scholarship student, Jay received his first two music degrees at Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, where he was awarded the coveted performer's certificate. A Fulbright Government Grant enabled him to study the organ and harpsichord in Vienna, Austria. Prior to arriving at MacMurray College in 1975, he earned his doctorate at the University of Illinois.

Jay is a multitalented musician. He has traveled widely and to great acclaim as an organ recitalist; however, he has also served as Music Director and Conductor of the Springfield Choral Society and has performed as a collaborative pianist with both the Jacksonville Symphony and the Illinois Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to receiving many prizes and awards for excellence, Jay has made two recordings of the Aeolian-Skinner Organ in Merner Chapel. His latest CD, a recording of the eleven church pipe organs in Jacksonville and sponsored by the Morgan County Historical Society, was released amid much fanfare in November, 2004.

A reception will follow the concert, and the audience is encouraged to welcome the artist.

## ***This -n- That***

### **Thanks from Arthur Pate**

It has been a sincere pleasure to have worked for one of Springfield's most prestigious churches over the past two years. I want to thank Mr. Tom Melton for his help, aid and push on projects over this time period. I wish the entire staff, the volunteers, and each and every member of the congregation at First Pres the very best of everything for the rest of this year, and that which is yet to come.

Thanks for being a part of my life.

Take care!

Arthur Pate

### **Library Remodeling Complete**

Work is now complete on expansion and remodeling of the First Floor Library. Thanks to Tom Melton and his volunteers and staff, the cost was minimal. Please stop in and take a look, and give Tom a pat on the back when you see him.

This expanded space will provide flexibility for all variety of activities; most importantly Christian education activities and programs.

Thanks to all who helped!

# Happenings

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE  
Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m.  
in the Sanctuary.

## *Winter of Our Discontent*

Too Many Lies ...  
Too Many Deaths ...  
Too Much Destruction ...  
Too Little Regard for the Rights of Others...

Join the Springfield Peace and Justice Community in these educational and advocacy actions focusing on ending the war in Iraq:

- 2/15 **Peace vigil**, 6th and Adams, noon to 1pm, and the following four Wednesdays
- 2/18 **Peace vigil**, 6th & Monroe, Federal Building, noon to 1pm, and the following three Saturdays
- 2/22 **Letter writing with WILPF**, Dessert, discussion, and writing to Congress, Illinois Coalition on Community Services, 510 Apple Orchard Rd, Suite 100, 6:30 pm
- 3/2 **Interfaith Service**, First Presbyterian Church, 7th & Capitol, 6:30 pm
- 3/7 **Eat and Meet** at Head West Downtown, 6th & Capitol, 5:30 - 8:30 pm Music, issues resources, legislative letter writing, Dutch-treat on dinner, but the Peace Pops are on us.
- 3/13 Week: **Lobbying at Congressional/Senate offices**
- 3/15 **Iraq, Iran: Where Are We Headed?**, Michael McConnell, Director, American Friends Service Committee/Great Lakes, Carnegie North, Lincoln Library, 7th & Capitol, 7:00 pm
- 3/18 **Vigil/Rally-Three Years of Iraq War: Time to Bring Them Home**, State Capitol Steps, 2nd & Capitol, 12 - 1pm

Sponsored by Mary Wood Branch of Women's Int'l League for Peace and Freedom, Pax Christi Springfield, Peace and Justice Office of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, Social Action Committee of Abraham Lincoln Unitarian/Universalist Congregation, and concerned individuals, and .....  
*in response to the call by Voices for Creative Nonviolence for local groups to engage in prayer and action across the nation as we approach the forth year of the Iraq War.*

For more information, call Diane, 544-3997 or Peg, 793-5074

~ LuAnn Atkins

## ACE Studies Romans

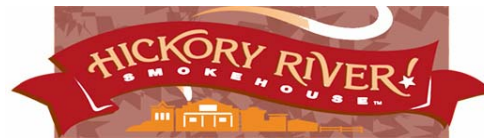
“The Epistle to the Romans is the most commanding exposition of the gospel of salvation by grace through faith ever written. . . Throughout two millennia of history, Romans has repeatedly proved to be a catalyst for reform and renewal of a Christian faith and life.” So reads the introduction of *The New Interpreter’s Study Bible*, a standard reference for Presbyterian seminary students and pulpit ministers across denominations. For this reason ACE has chosen Romans as the focus of our Lenten study.

- March 6:** Good News to the Romans and To Us (Chapters 1-3)
- March 13:** Righteousness is a Gift of God to Those Who Receive It By Faith (Chapters 3-6)
- March 20:** A Life of Peace and Confidence Comes From This Gift (Chapters 8-11)
- March 27:** The New Life in Christ (Chapters 12-15)

Come join the ACE crew at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays in the newly remodeled library for this combination discussion/devotional preparation for the Easter miracle.

## *Second Saturday Supper Club*

Will be dining at 6:00 p.m. at the



located at 2343 North Dirksen Parkway. (Just north of Sangamon Avenue and across from Northfield Center)  
**RSVP by noon on Thursday, March 9** by calling the church office or sign up on the sheet as you go into Fellowship Hall.

**Enjoy a casual evening with friends and good food!**

How many times can you say.....  
**Super Chunky Soup?**



You will be Super Lucky if you can say it 5 times!  
The hungry will be Super Lucky if each of us can give 5 cans of Chunky Soup to our Deacon’s Food Pantry.

March is Super Lucky Chunky Soup month.

*Thanks - The Board of Deacons.*

# Presbyterian Women News

## Presbyterian Women Spring Workshop

The Spring Workshop for Presbyterian Women in Great Rivers Presbytery will be held April 21 and April 22. The Saturday, April 22 workshop will be in Peoria at the Northminster Church. The Friday, April 21 workshop is scheduled to be held in Pekin at the First Presbyterian Church of Pekin. The theme for the workshops is training of leaders for the church.

If transportation is needed, call Barbara VonBehren at 546-5284.

## Church Wide Gathering Scholarships Available

Scholarships are still available for anyone interested in attending the Church Wide Gathering in Louisville, KY July 7,8,9,10 and 11. The scholarships pay for meals, but individuals are responsible for their own transportation and motel costs.

Applications blanks for those interested have been posted on a bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

## World Day of Prayer – “Signs of the Times”

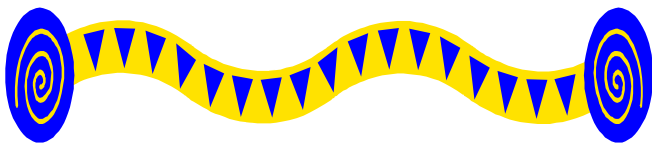
The World Day of Prayer sponsored by Church Women United will be held March 3, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. at First Christian Church. The church is located at 700 South 6th Street.

This is not a luncheon meeting. There is no cost to attend.

The theme is "Signs of the Times." The speaker is from South Africa. Men and women are invited to attend. No reservations are needed. There are sixteen churches in Church Women United in Springfield.

## Special Dessert at Congregational Dinner

Special desserts for the Congregational Dinner March 5 are being prepared by Kate Lowery, daughter of George and Janet MacGregor. The cost for the desserts is being paid by the Coordinating Team of the Presbyterian Women. This is a thank you from the Coordinating Team for support received and from the sale of the cookbook, "The Fruit of the Spirit."

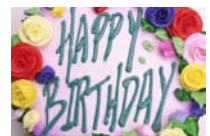


## **LECTIONARY FOR MARCH 2006**

5th: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;  
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15  
12th: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38  
19th: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22  
26th: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

## March 2006 Birthdays

- 1 Shirley May, Kelly Neal,  
Sally Robinson
- 2 Andy Schick
- 3 Hanna Bosie, Joan Kroll
- 5 Kati Forman, David Wilson
- 6 Caroline Cunningham
- 8 Rick Patton Jr
- 9 Jacob Pennell
- 12 Charles Neal, Jason Vaughn
- 15 Dorothy Chapman
- 18 Jane Luers
- 19 Charles Northrup Jr., Scott Roberts
- 20 Clark Olson, Nancy Schwermin
- 21 Kenneth Ackerman, Betsy Chapin
- 23 Ron Davidson
- 24 Barbara Olson
- 26 Marian Worthy
- 27 Chan Bohlen, Jenifer Neal
- 30 Hiram Phillips
- 31 Nancy Ashbaugh, Alexander Wentzel



# Children and

## Children & Youth Sunday School For March Come and learn about Communion!

	<b>K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade</b>
<b>Mar 5</b>	<u><b>Communion Set Up</b></u> Kitchen	<u><b>Communion Set Up</b></u> Kitchen	<u><b>Confirmation</b></u> Board Room
<b>Mar 12</b>	<u><b>Bible Bowling</b></u> Bethlehem Room	<u><b>Communion Banners</b></u> Art Room	<u><b>Passover Seder</b></u> Upper Landing
<b>Mar 19</b>	<u><b>Passover Seder</b></u> Computer Room	<u><b>Bible Bowling</b></u> Bethlehem Room	<u><b>Confirmation</b></u> Board Room
<b>Mar 26</b>	<u><b>Communion Banners</b></u> Art Room	<u><b>Passover Seder</b></u> Upper Landing	<u><b>Bible Bowling</b></u> Bethlehem Room

Sunday School begins at 9am with music time led by Nichol DelGiorno in the Music and Drama Room on the second floor. At 9:25am we break into our age groups and head for the activities listed above. Your children won't want to miss this opportunity for learning and fun. If you have any questions please contact Tasha Blackburn, 528-4311.

### **Building and Grounds is asking for everyone's help**

We wish Arthur much success in his new endeavors. With the leaving of Arthur, this means we only have one full time janitor and security person. We are looking to replace the janitor work with SPARC. Look for more on this in the April newsletter. With using SPARC, we are able to better get our cleaning done at a very reasonable price. The flip side of this is that Mike Self can only do so much. We are asking the groups that use our church, especially our own church members, to pickup and clean the areas that you are using for your meetings. Several groups have already made provisions to do this. This may mean that a couple of people come early to make coffee, tea etc. or stay after the meeting to clean the area, put dishes in dishwasher, and wipe tables etc.

Tom Melton has scheduled Mike Self's hours for the week with jobs that need done while he is on the premises. If your group needs a special set up of chairs, tables, etc. you will need to specify this when you book your dates and time for your meetings. Cindy will need at least 2 week notice for special set ups. This way Tom can schedule Mike's hours for doing the set up time. If you do not schedule the set up time, you will need your committee to do the additional work, as Mike will be scheduled for other duties. If you need something done while you are at the church, please contact Tom Melton to see if he or Mike has the time to do the things you want done. Please do not just drop in and expect that these two men can do the request on the spot. This may take a little getting use to, but think ahead, schedule meetings and events through the office, and be sure to schedule set ups. With a little co operation we will all be able to work together and make our meetings and events run smoothly.

## ***Are you spiritually alive?***

*If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!  
If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.  
If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!*

### **Why Go To Church?**

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column in the State Journal Register, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this ... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

~ Susie Risku

### **Pittsburgh chosen as site of 2012 Assembly**

*Steel City will be host of Presbyterian GA for the first time since 1958*

LOUISVILLE - The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) will recommend that the 2012 Assembly be held in Pittsburgh, a longtime Presbyterian stronghold. The last time the Assembly met there was 1958. The proposed dates for the 220th General Assembly are June 30-July 7, 2012. Commissioners to the upcoming 217th Assembly in Birmingham, AL. will have to approve.

"It's very easy to make this recommendation," said Deborah Davies, manager of Assembly services for the Office of the General Assembly (OGA). "There are many hotels and restaurants in close proximity to the convention center, which is very well suited to the meeting." The price is right, too.

Because of a geographic rotation plan, the 2012

Assembly must be somewhere along the Eastern seaboard. Pittsburgh is expected to be much less expensive than the other finalist cities - Philadelphia, Atlanta, Boston and Orlando, FL. OGA officials estimate the cost of a Pittsburgh Assembly at just over \$1.5 million; that's more than \$240,000 less than it would cost to meet in Philadelphia. Of the finalists, Boston was by far the most expensive, at \$2.2 million.

Support for the Assembly - another key selection factor - is very strong in Pittsburgh, said Gradye Parsons, OGA's director of operations. Pittsburgh Presbytery is one of the largest in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and is also home to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The presbytery has already started working with neighboring presbyteries to create "a huge pool of local support," Parsons said.

After Birmingham, the next two Assemblies will be in San Jose, CA. in 2008, and in Minneapolis, MN. in 2010.

~ by Jerry L. Van Marter

### **Cuba Partnership**

#### **Bible School during the School Break**

The week of November 14-20 is the School Break for grade schools. During this week the "Children's Project" of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Santi Spiritus prepared a Bible School focusing on preparing the children for Christmas activities. The recreation of the Nativity was rehearsed and worked with the children's choir for the traditional "Cantata of the Infant of Christmas."

There have been numerous participants from children in the Central Church and the Toyos Chapel. Toyos Chapel children were given a ride in the Zunzun, (an omnibus donated by the Presbyterian Cuba Connection of the United States) to the Central Church. Each day all of the children enjoyed a delicious snack

#### **The Fraternity of Young Adults celebrated a one year anniversary**

The devotional of the month of November of the Fraternity of Young Adults was dedicated to celebrating the one year anniversary of this organization. In the meditation for the day, a parallel was drawn between the Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land to the first year of establishing this fraternity. Afterwards we enjoyed, as always, delicious spaghetti and spiritual music interpreted by Jacqueline and the group "Flowing Waters". All of the brothers and sisters from the Springfield sister Church were invited.

*All activities take place in the church unless otherwise noted*

## **March 2006**

### **1\*WEDNESDAY**

6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering  
7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service/Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. - Friends of the Sangamon Valley

### **2\*THURSDAY**

12:00 p.m. - Personnel Committee  
6:30 p.m. - Abraham Lincoln Congregational Church Interfaith Service/Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m. - Deacons  
- Society for Creative Anachronism  
- Parents Without Partners  
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous  
- First Pres Book Club @ Jennie Claflin Home

### **5\*SUNDAY**

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming  
- Children's Sunday School  
- Confirmation Class  
10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service/Congregational Meeting  
11:30 a.m. - Congregational Luncheon

### **6\*MONDAY**

6:00 p.m. - Sertoma Club  
7:30 p.m. - Congregational Development Committee

### **7\*TUESDAY**

7:15 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

### **8\*WEDNESDAY**

12:15 p.m. - Lenten Brown Bag Recital  
5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering  
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group  
- Film Club

7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **9\*THURSDAY**

4:45 p.m. - Worship & Music Committee  
6:30 p.m. - Parents Without Partners  
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

### **11\*SATURDAY**

6:00 p.m. - Second Saturday Supper Club

### **12\*SUNDAY**

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. - Adult Programs  
- Children's Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

### **14\*TUESDAY**

7:15 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

### **15\*WEDNESDAY**

12:15 p.m. - Lenten Brown Bag Recital  
5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering  
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group  
- Film Club  
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **16\*THURSDAY**

7:00 p.m. - Session  
- Society for Creative Anachronism  
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

### **17\*FRIDAY**

9:30 a.m. - Fairhills Circle @ Presbyterian Home  
7:00 p.m. - Jay Peterson Organ Recital

### **19\*SUNDAY**

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming  
- Children's Sunday School  
- Confirmation Class  
10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

### **20\*MONDAY**

7:00 p.m. - Faith Circle

### **21\*TUESDAY**

7:15 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

### **22\*WEDNESDAY**

12:15 p.m. - Lenten Brown Bag Recital  
5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering  
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group  
- Film Club  
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **23\*THURSDAY**

5:15 p.m. - Central Illinois Organizing Project  
7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous

### **25\*SATURDAY**

8:00 p.m. - Classical Guitar Society

### **26\*SUNDAY**

8:45 a.m. - Nursery Opens  
9:00 a.m. - Adult Programming  
- Children's Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Interval  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hour

### **28\*TUESDAY**

7:15 a.m. - Bible Study Section II

### **29\*WEDNESDAY**

12:15 p.m. - Lenten Brown Bag Recital  
5:30 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. - Midweek Gathering  
6:30 p.m. - First Pres Knitting Group  
- Film Club  
7:00 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **30\*THURSDAY**

7:30 p.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous