

# THE PULSE

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES - 9:00 A.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30 A.M.

[www.firstpresbymc.com](http://www.firstpresbymc.com)



## A Note from Pastor Paul

*(This is a re-run of a note from a few years ago.)*

As we move into Holy Week and the Passion story, it is good to think about the meaning of suffering. I know, I know, no one likes to think too long or too deeply about suffering. Not only do we want to avoid suffering itself, we would rather not talk about it either.



But a recent column in the *New York Times* by David Brooks brings a fresh perspective to an understanding of suffering.

He begins by acknowledging that people prefer to talk about how to maximize happiness: “When people plan for the future, they often talk about all the good times and good experiences they hope to have.” And, of course, there is nothing wrong with always looking on the bright side of life.

But then he asks us to notice this phenomenon: “When people remember the past, they don’t only talk about happiness. It is often the ordeals that seem most significant. People shoot for happiness but feel formed through suffering.”

And that is perhaps the key to understanding suffering in a salutary way—it is the experience in life, not always pleasant, that gives shape to our character and fiber and spiritual growth. Suffering that is inflicted because of the pain of illness or injury may not be all that helpful in shaping our life or our outlook on life. But suffering that is chosen and endured on behalf of others or in the pursuit of justice or service to the planet—that kind of self-giving, self-emptying suffering deepens our faith, and makes us stronger people. And sometimes, even suffering that is inflicted without our choice can, if embraced, open us up to greater things. Brooks mentions how polio made Franklin Roosevelt a more empathetic person, and how “social suffering can give people an outsider’s perspective, an attuned awareness of what other outsiders are enduring.”

The kind of suffering that Brooks is referring to is the kind that draws us out of ourselves, out of our insulated lives and into the broader life of the world and into the lives of others around us in our own community. It is messy. It is sometimes painful and almost always uncomfortable. And it is necessary if we want to become more fully human while becoming more Christ-like.

An appropriate prayer for these coming weeks, written by Michael Leunig, says, “That which is Christ-like within us shall be crucified. It shall suffer and be broken. And that which is Christ-like within us shall rise up. It shall love and create.”

## Upcoming Dates

### Wednesday, April 10

Bible Study — 10:20 am

“Fill You Bowl, Fill Your Soul” — 6:00 pm

Youth & Family Ministry Team — 7:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal — 7:00 pm

### Thursday, April 11

Building & Properties Ministry Team —

7:00 pm

### Friday, April 12

PALS — 5:30 pm (at Thai Bistro)

### Saturday, April 13

All-Church Clean-Up Day — 9:00 am

### Sunday, April 14

“BBBG—Bigger, Better Board Games” —  
9:00 am (Fellowship Hall)

Adult Education — 9:00 am

Worship — 10:30 am

### Monday, April 15

Joyful Ringers Rehearsal — 5:30 pm

### Wednesday, April 17

Bible Study — 10:20 am

Choir Rehearsal — 7:00 pm

### Thursday, April 18



Maundy Thursday Service — 6:00 pm

### Friday, April 19



Good Friday Service — 7:00 pm

*(“Upcoming Events” continued on page 2)*

## Upcoming Dates

*(continued from page 1)*

Easter Sunday, April 21



Hot Cross Bun Breakfast— 9:30 am  
Worship with Communion — 10:30 am  
Empty Tomb Egg Hunt — 11:30 am

Monday, April 22  
Church Office Closed!

Tuesday, April 23  
"Pulse" Newsletter Articles Due — 12 Noon  
Special Needs & Endowment  
Ministry Team — 2:00 pm

Wednesday, April 24  
Bible Study — 10:20 am  
Choir Rehearsal — 7:00 pm

## Holy Week and Easter Services

**Palm Sunday—April 14**  
**10:30 am in the Sanctuary**

We will dramatize the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, waving our palms, and the children will lead us in song.

**Maundy Thursday—April 18**  
**6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall**

Following a simple meal, we will remember when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and shared a last supper with them. Then we will break bread and pass the cup at our tables.

**Good Friday—April 19**  
**7:00 pm in the Sanctuary**

We cannot really understand the power and efficacy of Easter resurrection unless we have also experienced the darkness and death of Good Friday. The Christian story is one that moves from darkness to light, from death to life. On Friday, we will mark the crucifixion and death of Jesus. During the service, through music, spoken word, and silence, we will enter into the darkness of Christ's suffering love.

**Easter Sunday—April 21**

We will begin at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall with hot cross buns, coffee and juice, and then process into the Sanctuary bearing the light of Christ. There at our 10:30 worship we will celebrate the resurrection with music and liturgy and the sacrament of communion.

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## Getting to Know Nancy Beenken

As part of our continuing series "Getting to Know You," we will hear about the life adventure of Nancy Beenken this Sunday, April 14, at 9:00 am in the Meeting Place.

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## Calling All Bakers...Hot Cross Buns

If you love to bake, we need you! FPC will be hosting an Easter morning breakfast of hot cross buns and coffee.

Maybe you have a favorite recipe or want to try baking these delectable treats for the first time. Bring your baked goods to the church kitchen on Easter Sunday, April 21. We'll be gathering at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.



## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

## 2019 Basket Auction Fundraiser Total

Thank you! Thank You! THANK YOU!  
With your support we were able to raise almost

# \$4,500

towards supporting the Lakeshore Center at Okoboji  
and all those from our church attending this year!

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### Bigger Better Board Games

Sundays @ 9:00am - Fellowship Hall

March 10 - April 14



Many of us have fond memories of playing board games, so let's have a little fun BUT with one big change... Let's make them BIGGER & BETTER!

During Lent we'll be super-sizing several of your favorite games to have a little fun for all ages.

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### Easter Sunday Empty Tomb Egg Hunt



Stick around after worship on Easter Sunday and help us find the Empty Tomb! We'll meet in the Friendship Room, hand out baskets and share some instructions before we begin searching. Bring your friends and families as we celebrate Easter!

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### Confirmation Sunday April 28th



Our Confirmation students are finishing up their two years of classes and are working on their Statements of Faith to be presented to Session on April 25th. Please keep them in your prayers as they discern and share their faith with us.

Then come celebrate and welcome them in on Sunday, April 28th during and after worship.

## Have You Registered for Camp?

Registration is OPEN for all Summer Camps at Lakeshore Center at Okoboji this summer! The theme this year is "Peace it Together!" where campers will learn about how God empowers and equips us to solve the challenging puzzle of making and maintaining peace in our lives and in the world.

Camps run weekly from June 9th - August 2nd. We'll cover 50% of the registration cost for anyone in our church & their friends. Just register online at

[www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.com](http://www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.com)

Enter the code **FPCM2019** and it will automatically cut your cost in HALF!

So take some time to check out what camps are available and don't miss the opportunity to create some memories at this special place.



## A Message from the President and Executive Director, PMA

This year we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of *One Great Hour of Sharing*, an annual outpouring of Christian generosity that continues to transform lives around the nation and the globe.

When you and your congregation participate in *One Great Hour of Sharing*, you are changing lives in Christ's name through the ministries of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. From initial disaster responses to ongoing community development, your gifts provide safety, sustenance, and hope to individuals and communities in need.

Please join us in contributing to this important offering. You know that the need is great. Your gift will make a difference.

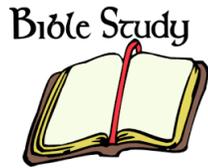
In the faith we share,  
The Reverend Dr. Diane Givens Moffett



## Wednesday Bible Study Readings

Wednesdays at 10:20 am

Come join us in the Friendship Room as we look at the upcoming Sunday scripture. We laugh, share, and learn about God working in us. What a wonderful way to enjoy Bible study!



### April 10

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 22:14—23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

### April 17

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

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### Please keep the following people in your prayers:

- + Family and friends of Mike Demory, Nancy Beenken's nephew, who died on March 26
- + Bob McCoy
- + Diane Trimble, recovering after back surgery
- + Margie Schmidt
- + Lois Dougan
- + Shirley Dean
- + Steve Adair
- + Julie Eaton, daughter of Lee and Judy Butler
- + Brian Elliott



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## Thank You

A heartfelt thank you for loving concerns, prayers, cards and emails during my nephew, Mike Demory's struggle with brain cancer and his death. Friends like you make this time of sorrow easier.

Nancy Beenken

## April Birthdays

- April 10** — Gene Kuehn
- April 13** — Judy Henry
- April 14** — Cheri Collins  
Tina Mathahs
- April 16** — Leigh Boehmer  
Dave Little
- April 18** — Carolyn McArthur  
Jennifer Ostrander
- April 19** — Aaron Ostrander
- April 20** — Kathy Jones
- April 23** — Gary Howell
- April 26** — Dan Long
- April 28** — Pam Little

## Happy Birthday!

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### Easter Lilies

Easter Sunday is April 21. If you would like to give an Easter lily in remembrance or in honor of a loved one, please make plans to bring them to the church office during the week of **April 15 — April 18**. Information to be included in the Easter worship bulletin insert needs to be received in the church office by **Wednesday, April 17**. Please feel free to take your Easter lily home with you after worship on Easter Sunday.

