



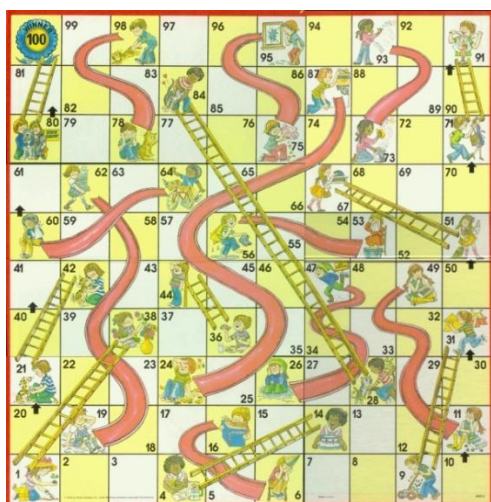
# THE STEEPLE

MARCH 2025

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WINTERSET, IA

*The mission of the First United Presbyterian Church is to make disciples of all people for the glory of God through teaching, caring and worshiping.*

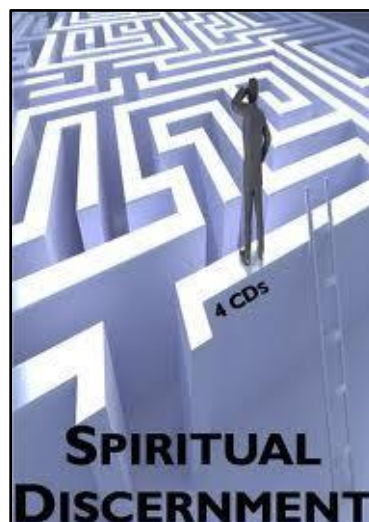


Do you remember the children's game *Chutes and Ladders*? By taking turns, players work their way from the bottom square all the way to the top. Sometimes you get to climb a ladder which speeds you on your way. At other times you hit the top of a shoot and slide down. Just when you think you are about to win and you are ahead of everyone else, you can quickly discover a setback.

There are times when our spiritual lives can seem like a game of *Chutes and Ladders*. Most of us would be content just to be consistently moving forward. The climbs up the ladders are indeed exciting, but the shoots are often not anticipated and never desired.

Where the game is different from the Christian life is that our steps are not the result of an arbitrary spin of the wheel or a throw of the dice. We believe that our steps are guided by God. But, we too have a responsibility in discerning where God is leading us. Sometimes that is simply to the next square. Sometimes, if we listen closely, God will guide us to new heights. Sadly, there are times when we don't listen and we slip and fall. But God remains forgiving and gracious and we start once again.

In recent years, the church is re-learning the spiritual act of discernment. It is less about seeking guidance over a single decision like, "should I go to college", "should I start a new job" or "should I retire?" Rather, it is more about developing a lifestyle that is constantly in tune with God.



*"Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way;  
though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,  
for the Lord holds us by the hand." - Psalm 37:23-24*

**Pastor Dave**



### **BIRTHDAYS**

3/2 Gaylene Blankers  
3/10 Sally Leeper  
3/14 Robert Newton  
3/21 Nicki Endriss  
3/26 Scarlett Ekdahl  
3/28 Bill Kneller

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

3/18 Jake & Carol Jacobs

### **MADONNA CIRCLE**



March 3 @ 10 am

### **EVENING GUILD**



Join us at the  
Fat Tuesday  
celebration on  
March 4!



**Do you or someone you know need care?**  
Contact Kay Stanley, Congregational Care  
Coordinator.

## **MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

March 2 – 10:15 AM

Kevin de Regnier,  
Worship Leader  
Communion

**Transfiguration of the Lord**

March 9 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Dave Endriss,  
Worship Leader  
**First Sunday in Lent**

March 16 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Dave Endriss,  
Worship Leader  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

March 23 – 10:15 AM

Kevin de Regnier,  
Worship Leader  
**Third Sunday in Lent**

March 30 – 10:15 AM

Rev. Ioan Ittu,  
Worship Leader  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**



We pray for...

Nolan Collins

Pat Kuhns

Tish McKee

Ruth Wagley

Ilene Holmes

Those known only to God

*Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in every situation, by prayer and  
petition, with thanksgiving, present  
your requests to God."*

*Philippians 4:6*

## SESSION

### Class of 2025

Pam Deichmann  
Lori Ryner

### Class of 2026

Ron Berdine  
Ann Pashek

### Class of 2027

Mike Dickerson  
Joe Ekdahl  
Don Stanley

Church email: [churchsecretary3261@gmail.com](mailto:churchsecretary3261@gmail.com)

Church phone: 515-462-3261

Church office hours: Mon – Thurs 9-1; closed Friday

Pastor Dave email: [revendriss@gmail.com](mailto:revendriss@gmail.com)

Pastor Dave phone: 515-360-0764

Dalene phone: 319-530-8373 (texts preferred)

Dalene email: [dds5160@gmail.com](mailto:dds5160@gmail.com)

Website: [www.1upcwinter.org](http://www.1upcwinter.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/1upcwinter](https://www.facebook.com/1upcwinter)

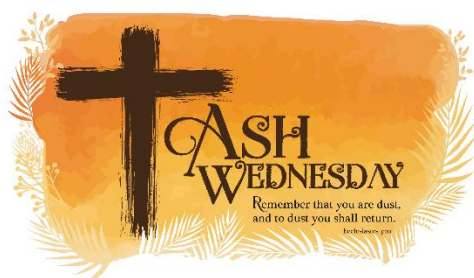
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Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing** supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All

three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please give as you are able this Lenten season. The offering will be received on Easter Sunday, April 20, but you may give anytime during Lent. Please earmark your check OGHOS. Thank you!

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**Ash Wednesday Worship**  
**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**7:00 pm – March 5**  
**Rev. Dave Endriss, preaching**



Do you enjoy listening to music? Who doesn't, right? I particularly love the old hymns, the classical "classics," and listening to my son as he subs for the organist at First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids. He is actually a master's degree-d percussion performance major with a teaching certification and is in his 23rd year of teaching/band directing/performing in Cedar Rapids. Now his 10 yr. old son is taking piano lessons and I love going over there and hearing what takes me back many-a-year to when Michael was beginning lessons on piano and drums. There's something about making music and listening to music – whether it's being played on a percussion instrument or any other instrument, piano, organ, or being sung – that brings happiness and joy to the human heart.

I love it when Connie comes to practice when I'm at church. It doesn't happen often, but occasionally I am able to listen as she practices the tunes she's preparing for the following Sunday. Some melodies I recognize, others I don't, but just listening to the organ as she plays relaxes me and brings me closer to God. Author Jennifer Camp writes, *"I believe that music created in worship invites the listener right into that moment – a new moment – with God."*

Moments with God brought on by music? Absolutely! God shows up in the holy spaces music allows us to inhabit. In this space we can hear His voice, feel His presence, and experience the joy of being open to His love. God's very existence makes us feel truly alive and through music we are gifted the grace and glory that only our Father can give. How fortunate we have a God that loves us so!

First United Presbyterian Church is blessed with music and worship leaders – Connie, Pastor Dave, Kevin, and pulpit supply guests – and on any given Sunday we may be singing *"How Great Thou Art"*, *"The Old Rugged Cross,"* or *"Amazing Grace."* Another Sunday we may be watching videos with lyrics from present day Christian artists. Music is a vital part of worship at First!

So, the next time you don't know a song or don't feel like singing, let the Spirit in! Listen – not just hear – listen to how God is speaking to you through music. Worship the God who loves you through the words and melodies of those familiar and sometimes unfamiliar songs. Let the words flow through you and really listen. What music brings God closer to you? How does a song make you feel alive and in God's great company?





Some Lenten hymn suggestions as we journey together: *Be Still My Soul; The Old Rugged Cross; Jesus Calls us, O'er the Tumult; Lord, who Throughout These 40 Days; Take My Life and Let It Be; My Faith Looks Up to Thee; Were You There?; Blessed Assurance; Be Thou My Vision; Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing; When I Survey the Wondrous Cross; Just As I Am; O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*, just to name a few. Look through a hymnal; use YouTube to listen to a song; and be a part of the season through Prayer, Word and Song. Include music in your daily spiritual life, listen for God and feel His ever-present Spirit within you.

*All glory, laud, and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King!  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.  
To Thee, before Thy passion, they sang their hymns of praise;  
To Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.*

- Dalene

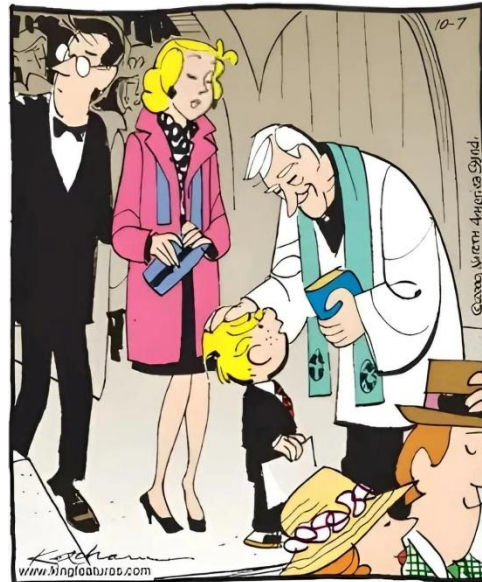


# MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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<b>2</b> <b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	<b>3</b> 10:00 am - Madonna Circle	<b>4</b>  <b>Fat Tuesday</b> 5:30 – 6:30 pm Walking Tacos Supper	<b>5</b> Artful Devotions 10 am – Coffee with Pastor Dave 7 pm Service at  <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> St. Paul Lutheran	<b>6</b> 7:00 pm – Property & Finance	<b>7</b> <b>WORLD DAY            OF PRAYER</b> 	<b>8</b> <b>Turn clocks            ahead 1 hr.            tonight</b> 
<b>9</b> <b>Daylight Savings Begins</b> <b>1st Sunday in Lent</b> 9 :00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Artful Devotions 10 am – Coffee with Pastor Dave 5:00 pm Bible Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b> 9 :00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	<b>17</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Artful Devotions 10 am – Coffee with Pastor Dave 5:00 pm Bible Study	<b>20</b> <b>MR. ROGERS            DAY</b> <b>Wear Red Today!</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>3rd Sunday in Lent</b> 9 :00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:30 pm Session Meeting	<b>26</b> Artful Devotions 10 am – Coffee with Pastor Dave 5:00 pm Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>4th Sunday in Lent</b> 9 :00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	<b>31</b>					



**SPRING FORWARD!  
MOVE YOUR CLOCKS  
AHEAD 1 HR. WHEN YOU GO  
TO BED ON SATURDAY,  
MARCH 8**



**"ARE YOU SURE THERE'S ONLY TEN COMMANDS?  
MY MOM'S GOT AT LEAST A HUNDRED!"**



**Presbyterian Women will be serving Walking Tacos; listening to a little jazz music; encouraging members to bring a friend; and share in Fat Tuesday Celebration on March 4th. Free will donation; starts at 5:30-6:30 pm or till the food is gone. Everyone welcome...(we will offer to-go boxes) Questions? Contact Pam, Ruth or Connie.**

**Why is it called Fat Tuesday?**

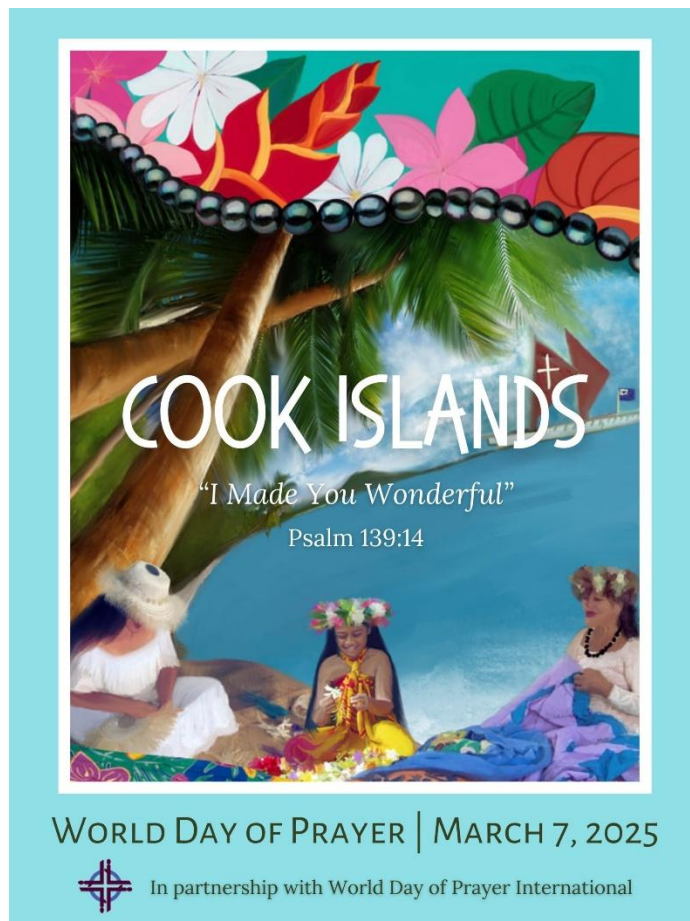
- **The French phrase "Mardi Gras" translates to "Fat Tuesday".**
- **It's a reference to the custom of eating rich foods before the fasting season of Lent.**

**How is Fat Tuesday celebrated?**

- **People traditionally celebrate by eating rich foods and using up all the fats in their homes.**
- **In Michigan, people celebrate with pączki, a specialty pastry.**
- **In New Orleans, Fat Tuesday is a raucous day of celebration.**

**When is Fat Tuesday?**

- **Fat Tuesday falls on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period of fasting and abstinence leading up to Easter.**



**The 2025 World Day of Prayer** program invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we can receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat every other person as made wonderful by God. Too often, women and girls have been silenced and oppressed, making this upcoming theme from WDP Cook Islands particularly relevant. The message that we, as women and girls, are “fearfully and wonderfully” made in the image of God reinforces our movement’s support of women in expressing their faith and speaking about their lives in prayer and worship before God and in community.

**World Day of Prayer** is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

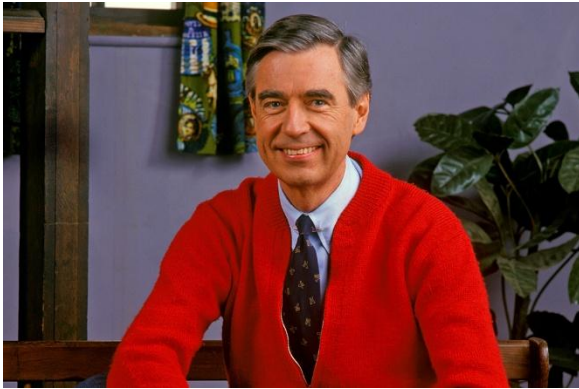
- It is initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- It is symbolized by an annual day of celebration observed on the first Friday in March to which all people are welcome.
- It brings women of different races, cultures and traditions together in fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.
- Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence in the world.
- The motto of World Day of Prayer is “*I Made You Wonderful.*”
- The 2025 prayer focus is for The Cook Islands.

## THESE DAYS

*Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*

Subscriptions to *These Days* devotional booklets are now up for renewal. This daily devotional comes in a little booklet four times a year. And the cost is only \$7 for the whole year! See Ruth Reed to get yours today!

## A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood Mr. Rogers Emphasis Day



Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and is a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation are worth remembering. Rogers was also a pioneer in the world of Christian education and formation of young children. March 20th was his birthday and the day that the PC(USA) has chosen to highlight all we can learn from his work.

Some Scripture connections as we remember Mr. Rogers:

Matthew 22:34-40 The Greatest Commandment

Luke 10:25-37 Who is my neighbor?

Luke 14:15-24 Story of the Great Dinner

Jeremiah 1:4-8 Before I formed you, I knew you

John 21:15-17 A story of Peter and Jesus

Acts 10:28-36 A story about Peter and Cornelius

Genesis 33:1-11 A story two twin brothers

Deuteronomy 10:17–21 A story of the Hebrew people

*“This is what I give. I give an expression of care every day to each child, to help him realize that he is unique... I feel that if we in public television can only make it clear that feelings are mentionable and manageable, we will have done a great service for mental health.”*

- Fred Rogers, Senate hearing on PBS funding

Ideas for celebrating the legacy of Mr. Rogers...

- **Be a neighbor:** Share a kind word with a friend or stranger.
- **Do a good deed:** Give a neighbor a snack, flowers, or a card.
- **Decorate rocks:** Paint and hide "kind rocks" for others to find.
- **Wear red:** Wear a red shirt or cardigan sweater to remember Mr. Rogers.
- **Donate:** Collect toys and books for a local charity.
- **Learn about Mr. Rogers:** Learn more about his life and work.
- **Watch Mister Rogers' Neighborhood:** Revisit the show that helped teach children to be kind and compassionate.