

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER



First Presbyterian Church

101 6th Avenue NW

Kasson, MN 55944

Telephone: (507) 634-7481

Email: presbykasson@kmtel.com

Pastor-presbypastor@kmtel.com

Website: www.presbykasson.org

At a special meeting March 16, 2020 the Session voted to cancel all scheduled activities at the church through April 12, 2020.
This includes Holy Week and Easter.

Carl Grosse-Interim Pastor

Ann Driver, Church Secretary

Dan Kaufeld, Organist

Gayle Kaufeld, Choir Director

Quinita Kase, Organist

Don and Jane Heser, Custodians

Amanda Frodermann Parish Nurse

Jennifer Mittelstadt, Treasurer

Elders & Committees

Randy Carlsen-Clerk of Session

Thelma Givan– Membership, Mission, Personnel

Robert Gransee– Property

Tami Hanson-Christian Ed, Personnel, Worship

Gayle Kaufeld– Christian Ed, Nominating, Worship

Jennifer Mittelstadt– Christian Ed, Membership, Personnel, Stewardship

Mike Prenzlöw-Property

Paulette Riedel-Nominating, Membership, Missions

Sheryl Scholer– Christian Ed, Worship

Deacons & Committees

Sue Alberts– Stewardship, Worship, Nominating

Steve Johnson-

Paul Riggs– Membership, Stewardship

Wayne Trom– Property

Michelle Willert– Mission, Property

PASTOR'S *thoughts...*

Years ago, a folk singer named Joni Mitchell recorded a hit song called Big Yellow Taxi. The refrain stuck with people: Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you got til it's gone? They paved Paradise and put in a parking lot. The song has been in my head a lot lately, apparently I'm not the only one feeling it. Three recent phone calls echoed the same sentiment, yet they were from very different people in different parts of the world.

What struck me about the three calls, and comments from many others, was the vision of life after this pandemic plays out. We're bombarded with the devastation of here and now, combined with fear of the worst yet to come. These people saw farther, and all of them shared a similar hope. Yes, hope! Hope that on the other side of this, we'd have a greater appreciation for what really matters. That people would be less greedy, less disconnected, less anxious; instead, this would impress on us how precious people are, how important it is to GATHER, and to enjoy family, friends and neighbors.

This is Easter thinking. When mere existence marked by fear and isolation gives way to living with love and hope, when panic is replaced with faith, when stomping over others and hoarding is overcome by civility and generosity, Easter starts to mean something. I am learning in so many ways how this-worldly Jesus meant His followers to be, and the COVID-19 pandemic is a stunning test of faith.

We'll get through this. I encourage you to think about how you see life on the other side, and how that guides what you do now. Christ is risen! Let's live like people who know what we got!

Pastor Carl





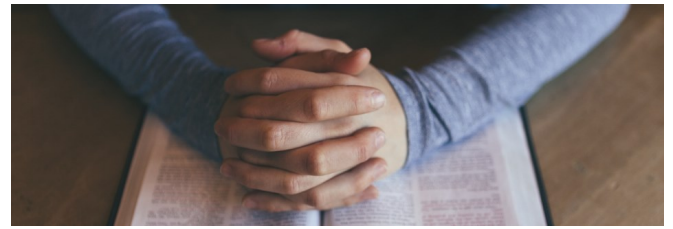
April 2 **Don Hesar**
 Bill Stromme
April 5 **Chad Prenzlow**
April 8 **Brock Leisen**
April 11 **Char Sveska**
April 12 **Nicholas Leisen**
April 13 **Richard Archer**
April 20 **Gordon Law**
April 24 **Kristi Brogan**
April 26 **Dale Allen**
 Ashley Gransee
April 29 **Steve Springsted**

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
 That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
 When all at once I saw a crowd,
 A host, of golden daffodils;
 Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
 Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

April Poem, William Wordsworth



April 27 **Dale & Ruth Allen**



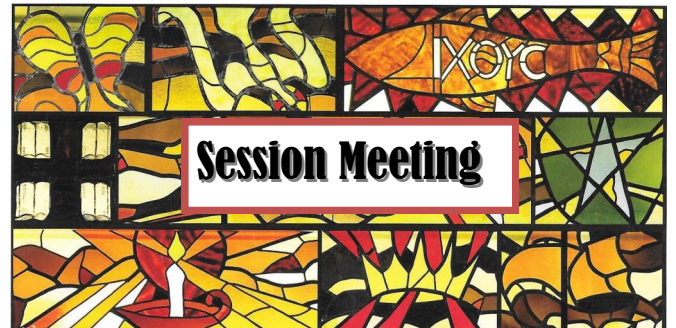
Pray for those who are serving our Nation's defense: Todd Livingston with the U.S. Air Force at Hickam A.F.B, HI.

Pray for those in the care center: Jean Weinknecht.

Pray for the Severance family on the loss of their father, Lewis Severance.

Pray for Clint Patterson on the passing of his sister, Cindy.

Pray for our world's recovery during this time of suffering.



April Session Meeting will be held on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

Church Information

Website: www.presbykasson.org
 Pastor email: presbypastor@kmtel.com
 Church email: presbykasson@kmtel.com
 Church Phone: 634-7481
 Pastor Phone - 651-214-4174
 Secretary office hours
 Wednesday & Friday 8-12
 Sunday School 9:00 am
 & Confirmation
 Worship 10:00 am
 Fellowship 11:00 am

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KASSON

RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

At a special meeting March 16, 2020 the Session voted to cancel all scheduled activities at the church through April 1, 2020. Sadly, this includes Holy Week and Easter. Session will reconvene Monday, April 6 to reassess conditions and determine next steps. We simply believe this action best protects the health of our congregation and is consistent with best practices directed by civic officials. Special thanks to our Parish Nurse, Amanda Froderman, for her guidance and expertise. We have asked our church secretary Ann to be in the office from 10-noon Wednesday and Friday as there will be administrative tasks to maintain. The Properties Committee and our custodians, the Hesers, will regularly check the building and grounds.

Since there are no activities, there's no realistic option to live stream. Instead, Dan and Gayle will be posting musical devotions on our church web site. We will also upload last year's Lenten and Easter services from DVDs saved by Dick Hewitt (<https://presbykasson.org/wordpress/>). Copies of those DVDs, as well as recordings of most services, are also available for free. Just contact a Deacon or Session member or friend from church, and we'll make sure you get a DVD.

In the meantime, we also ask you to do the following:

- Keep being a Christian! Read your Bible, definitely pray, and check out online services from around the area. You might get some good ideas to share when we do open the doors again!
- If you're struggling, get help! Call, text, or email Pastor Carl. Contact a church friend. This quarantine and social distancing can make you feel isolated and alone, but you're not!
- Check on your neighbors and friends. Scan through the church directory and if someone's name just jumps out to you, call them and ask how they're doing! We need to care for one another as best we can;
- If your circumstances allow it, send your offering to the church. We still have modest bills to pay such as utilities and office supplies. We will also be sending the loose offerings dedicated for area food shelves, which are a lifeline for many families disrupted by the pandemic.

Above all, demonstrate trust in the One who said: "Aren't a few sparrows sold for a couple of pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God. Even the very hairs on your head are numbered, so do not worry. You are worth more than many sparrows!"

The First Presbyterian Church Session

New Addition to Church Website - Musical Meditations

We've added a new feature to the church website (<https://presbykasson.org/wordpress/>) to provide some linkage to worship content in this time of canceled Sunday services. This consists of a suggested Bible reading, a musical offering connected with the reading, and some thoughts to contemplate in connection with the reading and music. On a computer, the link to this is at the top of the web page. To get to the content, hover over the "Musical Meditation" box, then the "Musical Meditation for March 22" box will show up. If you click on that, you'll get the text. Hovering over it will also bring up the "Nettleton Piano Solo" box. If you click on that you'll get the music. (Not both at the same time, though!) If you open the church website on your phone, it will look a bit different. From the home page, there is a "list" icon to the right (small gray icon with inner lines) If you click this, you will see a long list of website contents. The "Musical Meditations" boxes will be down at the bottom, you can touch those to activate one or the other. For computers or phone, there is also a media player at the bottom of your screen. It's another way to get to the music. Either way you do the music, if you'd like to listen to it while reading the text, you'll need to open the "Musical Meditation for March 22" text file in a separate window. This option is available by right-clicking if you're in Windows, or by pressing and holding the link on an Android phone, or equivalent on other devices. We're working to have just one link that pops up and starts the media player along with the text, but we're not quite there yet.





From
Amanda Frodermann, RN

Coronavirus or COVID-19 has been on everyone's mind. One can't turn on the tv without hearing about it, or go to a store without being reminded by the low supply of toilet paper or occasionally masked person. As the information is continually coming in and recommendations are changing frequently, it is important to stay informed. Make sure your sources are credible, as there is a lot of misinformation on the internet. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and the World Health Organization (WHO) <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus> are a couple of reputable sites. It is also important to stay calm and use common sense. If you are feeling stressed, make sure you are finding healthy ways to relieve that stress. Praying, listening to soothing music, meditation, exercise, getting enough sleep, talking with friends (even if by phone or video chat), and laughing can all help reduce stress. Try to avoid unhealthy habits like drinking too much caffeine, eating excess junk food, alcohol, smoking, or using illegal substances. To help protect yourself from COVID-19, the flu, or other respiratory illnesses please remember to:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (especially after being in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing).
- If soap and water are not available the CDC recommends using a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces daily (such as doorknobs, light switches, drawer handles, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks).
- Avoid close contact with those that are sick
- **Stay home if you are sick**, except to get medical care. If you are able, please call your doctor before going in as they can help you take steps to prevent spreading it to others.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, dispose of it in a lined trash can, and wash your hands.

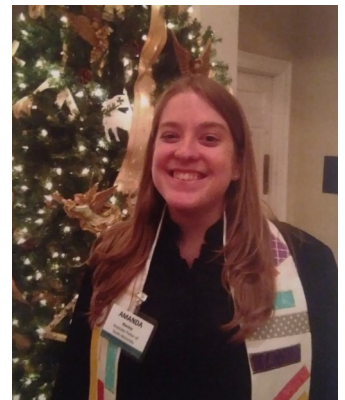
Isaiah 41:10 NRSV "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

WE HAVE A NEW PASTOR

After many, many months of discernment, interviews and diligent work, the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) of our church recommended Amanda Mackey for the Pastor position in our congregation.

On Saturday, March 14th, we were invited to meet and talk with Amanda and her fiancée, Josh. Then on Sunday, March 15th, Amanda led the service. Immediately following the service, there was a congregational meeting, where the members voted on installing Amanda as our Pastor.

The congregation voted and Amanda was welcomed to be our new Pastor. She will hopefully be starting in early summer.



We thank our committee for their hard work and sacrifices they made to procure our Pastor.

Committee members: Ally, Char, Amy, Bob, Tami and Nathan

EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN

In lieu of a live Easter Memorial Garden this year, we are featuring a combined list of recent memorials together with photos of last year's garden. ~ The Worship Committee



Offered by:

Sue Alberts
John & Carol Allen
The Borgstrom Family
Carol & Jerry Boyd
Arlin & Marsha Brigham & Family
Folmer Carlsen Family
Deb Dodds
Ann Driver & Ted Ferry
Donna Dutton
Howard & Elaine Gransee
Nathan & Heather Gransee
Carl & Denise Grosse
Jack & Dusty Heiserman
Andrew & Casey Hesser Family
Jane & Don Hesser
The Holtz Family
Steve, Kristy, Jesse & Jared Johnson
Dan & Gayle Kaufeld
Diane Krejci & Family
Sharon Law & Peggy Engle
Helen Leque
Bev Livingston
Conner Pogalz
Paul Pogalz
Mike & Carol Prenzlowl
Paul and Ann Riggs
John & Noreen Schwen
Steve & Joan Springsted
Jim & Bev Stucky
Bob & Tracy
Wayne & Rosalie Trom
The Wilke Family
Steve, Michelle & Olivia Willert

In Loving Memory of:

Ron & Mom
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Parents
Loved Ones
Ruth Marie Carlsen
Grandparents
Tom & Hele Ferry
Ed
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Brother, David Leslie
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Parents & Betty Derby
Loved Ones
Gordon & Polly Engle
Loved Ones
Erv & Parents
Jerry Scherger
Parents
Loved Ones
Lew and Rachel Severane
Loved Ones
Parents & Grandson
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Our Parents
Scott Borgstrom & Morgan Wilke
Loved Ones

When and Where Did the Easter Bunny Tradition Begin?

By Hope Bolinger Crosswalk.com Contributing Writer



Believe it or not, the Easter Bunny isn't the only odd tradition that takes place during Easter season. On the Saturday before Easter, residents of Greece will throw pots out the window, and on Easter Monday boys in Poland will attempt to get people wet by throwing buckets of water on them.

The Easter Bunny origin, however, can likely be traced back to the pre-Christian Anglo-Saxon era where pagans would worship a deity that took the form of a rabbit: Eostre.

Known as the goddess of springtime or dawn, Eostre (or sometimes seen as Eostra or Eastre) is associated with rabbits, pastels, and springtime celebrations.

In other cultures, such as Ancient Rome and even prior, rabbits were associated with rebirth and new life. Because of this, people would include rabbits on their gravestones.

So how did the Christian holiday get wrapped up in this?

Similar to Christmas and Halloween, Christians attempted to blend elements of pagan religion with Christian tradition, in order to make the message of Christianity more palpable to those of other religions.

So, when a group of monks in the late fourth century went to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity, they mixed together elements of the pagan holiday with their Christian calendar.

As far as the bunny who brings children candy, we see that tradition coming to America through German immigrants. Similar to Halloween, the tradition evolved more into candy-themed festivities for children.

Concerning Easter eggs, cultures throughout history have viewed fertility and bringing of life through eggs. Many statues of fertility goddesses, such as statues of Ishtar from Babylon, are often covered in eggs.



Dyed eggs were likely consumed at spring festivals, which explains why some people dip dye eggs on Easter. It's reasonable that Christians would've seen this egg imagery equated with a symbol of life and incorporated eggs into a holiday celebrating eternal life.



Church Cancellation Notification Policy

Cancellations will be communicated the following ways:

- 1. The homepage of our website (www.presbykasson.org)**
- 2. The church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/) First Presbyterian Church-**

Kasson MN

- 3. KTTT—Channel 10 (on TV and on <https://kttc.com/closings-and-delays/>)**
- 4. As a recorded message on the answering system at the church: 634-7481**
- 5. In case of power outage, use common sense and stay safe.**

-Session/Worship Committee



April 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Session Mtg 5:30 pm			Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	
12 Easter 	13	14	15	16	17	18
			← Meals on Wheels →			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Reminder: If your circumstances allow it, please send your offering to the church. We still have modest bills to pay such as utilities and office supplies. We will also be sending the loose offerings dedicated for area food shelves, which are a lifeline for many families disrupted by the pandemic.