

PASTOR'S LETTER FOR FEBRUARY 2021

Greetings Friends!

It is February so many exciting things to celebrate this month- Groundhog's Day, the Super Bowl, Valentine's Day, and of course, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. 2021 is off to a great start with worship happening back in the sanctuary. It is nice to be able to gather even if worship looks a little different.

Our Zoom Bible Study is only meeting on Wednesday nights at 7pm. We are continuing to discuss Christian practices. Starting on February 24, we will start our new study by Adam Hamilton called The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus.

I am excited for our new class of deacons and elders to join our church leadership. I ask that you join me in praying for them as they seek to faithfully serve our church.

Thanks to everyone who helps with our worship service. I am so very thankful for Ann Driver, Paul Riggs, Jennifer Mittelstadt, Sue Alberts, Dick Wolff, Tami Hanson, Bob Gransee, Jane and Don Heser, and Dan Kaufeld. Thank you to Amy Borgstrom, Ally Holtz, and Al Riedel for teaching Sunday school.

My verse for us this month comes from 1 John 4:16, "So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."

Let us all seek to bring God's love into the world this month!

I am so grateful to be your pastor.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Amanda



March
Newsletter
Deadline
February 24th
8 AM



Feb. 1	Chris Holtz
Feb. 2	Howard Gransee
Feb. 5	Heather Abbott
Feb. 11	Judy Patterson
Feb. 12	Aaron Patterson
Feb. 13	Thelma Givan
Feb. 14	Rebecca Stephans
Feb. 15	Alex Fogal
Feb. 17	Peter Carlsen
Feb. 21	Axel Rausch
Feb. 22	Dawn Miller
Feb. 24	Genevieve Frodermann
	Ella Holtz
Feb. 25	Paul Pogatz



Feb. 3 Tom & Audrey Erwin

Pray for those who are serving our Nation's defense:

Todd Livingston with the U.S. Air Force at Hickam A.F.B., HI. Todd has been deployed since Nov3 to South Korea

Peyton Wilke graduated from Marine Basic Training at Marine Corp Recruit Depot (MCRD) in San Diego.

Please keep Bev Livingston and Bev Stucky in our prayers.



February Session Meeting will be held on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 10th at 6:00 pm using Zoom. Members will receive an invitation to the meeting in their email.

Church Information

Website: www.presbykasson.org
 Pastor email: presbypastor@kmtel.com
 Church email: presbykasson@kmtel.com
 Church Phone: 634-7481
 Pastor Phone - 913-424-4662
 Pastor Office Hours M 10am—2pm,
 W 9am—noon, and by appointment.
 Secretary office hours
 Wednesday & Friday 8am—noon
 Worship 10:00 am

PW CORNER

Hello Ladies,

Can't believe how fast January is flying by. Time for the February newsletter to be completed.

Some updates, we are in no hurry to get the PW books out this year as we have no meetings planned until April and that is tentative. The books this year will be "fill in the blanks". The books should be out soon after the annual meeting which is the 31st of January.

February seems like a good time to have a red dessert not only because of Valentines Day but also President's Day which made me think of George Washington chopping down the cherry tree. Just a thought, have any of you been cutting out the recipes and trying them? We haven't heard any feedback from any of you.

For February lets try a cherry cobbler dessert. It seems quick and easy.

CHERRY COBBLER DESSERT

1 Cup flour	2 Tbsp melted butter
1 Cup sugar	½ Cup milk
1 Tsp baking powder	
½ Tsp salt	

Mix dry ingredients together. Mix milk and butter until blended. Pour batter into a greased 8 or 9" baking dish. Spread 1 can cherry pie filling over batter. Bake at 400 degrees for 35 minutes or longer.

The bottom floats to the top. Serve warm with ice cream or whipped cream

I just made a sample batch to try. It's tasty.

A VALENTINE REMEMBRANCE

Louise Pugh Corder

Remember dear, when long ago, we walked through fields of fresh-fallen snow.
With hearts in tune and arms entwined, you pledged your love, and I pledged mine.

Amid a wondrous world of white, we spun fine dreams that winter night and planned the life that we Would share—a perfect life, untouched by care.

You drew a huge heart in the snow, wrote love inside—our names below. You held me in a warm Embrace as feathery flakes fell on my face.

Now gray heads close, we watch snow fall on frosted lawn as we recall when all our blissful dreams

Were young, our lives unspent, love's songs unsung.

We smile at how youth seldom knows that there are thorns on every rose; maturity's often bought with

Tears, yet love grows richer through the years.

Lets hope February flies by as fast as January. Hope to see you in church!

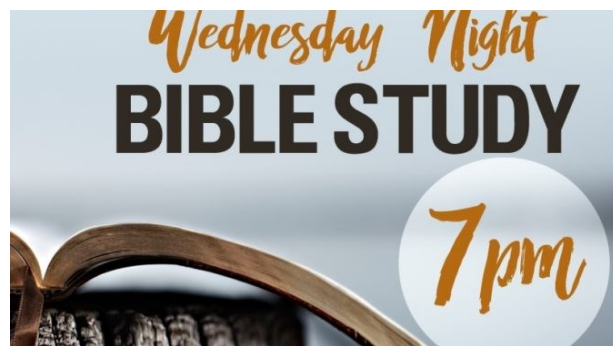
Sue and Carol



Zoom Bible Study is Happening!

The Zoom link will be sent out via email.

Animate: Practices is an introduction to the central practices of the Christian faith, why they are important, and how we can take part in them today. Sessions feature perspectives from Christian thought leaders on topics such as prayer, worship, money, and service.



Wednesday February 3 at 7pm - Money

For this week's Animate: Practices Bible study we will explore the Christian practice of money and look at the joy of sharing.

Wednesday February 10 at 7pm – Service

For this week's Animate: Practices Bible study we will explore the Christian practice of service and how to look for the needs right around us.

Wednesday February 17 at 7pm - Community

For this week's Animate: Practices Bible study we will explore the Christian practice of community and what it means to join an unexpected family.

Our Lent Study is The Way: Following in the Footsteps of Jesus by Rev. Adam Hamilton

Wednesday February 24 at 7pm – The Way: Following in the Footsteps of Jesus

For this week's The Way: Following in the Footsteps of Jesus study we will explore the baptism and temptation of Jesus.

Children's Sunday School Plan for In-Person Worship

Children's Sunday School resumed Sunday January 17, 2021 at 10am.

Children's Sunday School classes (the class for younger children and confirmation class) will take place during worship and will last approximately 30 minutes.

The children will be required to wear masks and go directly to their Sunday school classrooms.

Children of the same family will be seated together 6 feet apart from other children outside of their household.

The children will check in with their Sunday school teacher when they arrive. They are not included in the count of 40 people for worship since they will be in a separate location from the sanctuary.

If your child feels sick or has had a fever in the last 24 hours please do not send them to Sunday school.





Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 Policies

approved by Session on 01/21/2021.

Session Members: Rev. Amanda Boss (Moderator), Randy Carlsen (Clerk), Thelma Givan, Robert Gransee, Tami Hanson, Gayle Kaufeld, Sheryl Scholer

Why aren't we doing joys and concerns or announcements from the congregation?

To comply with CDC guidelines, we will not have congregation members loudly speak due to the increased respiratory droplets it produces. If you would like to submit a joy, concern or an announcement please talk to Pastor Amanda and she will include it in worship.

Why is seating so limited?

Seating is limited to make sure that everyone is socially distanced. Careful effort was made to ensure that everyone is sitting 6 feet apart from one another on all sides.

Registering for church is a hassle. Why do we have to sign up?

The sign-up sheet is not there to exclude anyone, rather it is there to give us an idea of how many people we are expecting in worship. This helps us make sure that we have enough seats for everyone. This also makes sure we have a list of people who were in church for contact tracing in case someone was to unknowingly spread COVID-19 while they were in worship.

Why can the kids sit next to each other in Sunday School, but we cannot?

The children's Sunday school class is seated by family group. The children's family groups are separated 6 ft apart in the Sunday school classroom.

I miss seeing the kids in worship. Can they come up for children's time?

Since children's Sunday school is going on during the worship service the children will not be coming up for children's time. This is to limit the children's exposure to people outside of their family and to keep them safe.

I have a hard time hearing in the sanctuary. What is being done about it?

We are working hard to make it easier to hear everything in the sanctuary. We are increasing the sound in the speakers in the fellowship hall and the sanctuary. This will be an ongoing process. Pastor Amanda is trying different ways to improve her sound quality by using a mask insert.

Can't Pastor Amanda take her mask off while she is leading worship?

No, Pastor Amanda will leave her mask on while she is leading worship. This is for her safety and so that she is obeying the indoor mask mandate put in place by Governor Walz.

The service is too short. Can we lengthen the worship service?

The worship service will last no more than twenty-five minutes to limit the time of exposure to COVID-19. At this time, the service will continue to be short so that we can keep our church family safe.

Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 Policies - continued

I miss the music in church. Can we sing?

We will not be singing in church at this time. The MN Department of Health has stated, “Singing and instrumental music produced by woodwind or brass instruments are higher-risk activities for COVID19 spread due to the aggressive expelling of respiratory droplets. Congregational singing is strongly discouraged during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

We will continue to follow the Minnesota Department of Health recommendations so that we can worship safely.

There are other churches in town that are singing and/or have longer worship services, why can't we?

Every church has a choice of how they are going to handle the coronavirus pandemic. The Session of First Presbyterian Church made their decision by following guidance from the MN Department of Health and the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. We are doing everything we can to ensure that our church members can worship safely. It is extremely difficult, but we know that bold leadership is required during these unprecedented times.

I miss the longer virtual worship service with hymns. Can't we just go back to online worship?

At this point we will continue to have in-person worship. The Session is monitoring the COVID-19 numbers in our area and will adjust the worship service, as necessary. If you feel strongly about going back to online worship or have other feedback, please email your thoughts to Pastor Amanda at presbypastor@kmtel.com.

I miss “normal” church with fellowship afterwards. When can we be back to “normal”?

Since the pandemic is still going on, we do not know when the restrictions will be lifted. We look forward to the day where we can fellowship together as a church family. As more people get vaccinated that will help build up herd immunity to the virus. When the MN Department of Health and the CDC tell us that we can fellowship together safely we will communicate that to you.

I am so tired of all the restrictions and wearing a mask. I miss church the way it used to be.

We are all tired of living through a pandemic. We miss the way church used to be too. However, we know that we need to follow these guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health and the CDC so that we can keep our church family safe. The most loving thing we can do right now is to continue to wear our mask and follow the rules so that this pandemic can come to an end. Please continue to hold our healthcare workers, those who work in vaccine production, and all those who are suffering from COVID-19 in your prayers.

I have a question that you did not answer.

Any other questions can be directed to a member of session or Pastor Amanda, her email is presbypastor@kmtel.com



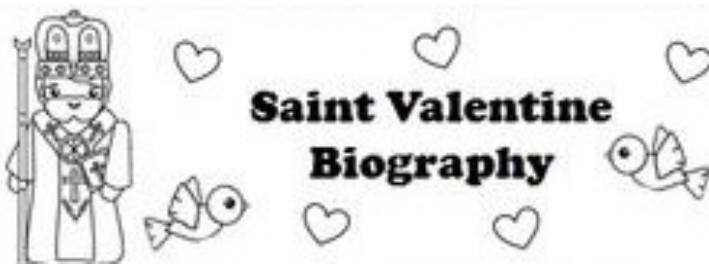
Church Cancellation Notification Policy

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. KTTC—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](tel:634-7481)
 5. In case of power outage, use common sense and stay safe.
- Session/Worship Committee

True Love

For God so lo **V**ed the world,
That He g **A**ve
his on **L**y
Begott **E**n
So **N**
That whosoever
Believeth **I**n Him
Should **N**ot perish,
But have **E**verlasting life."
John 3:16

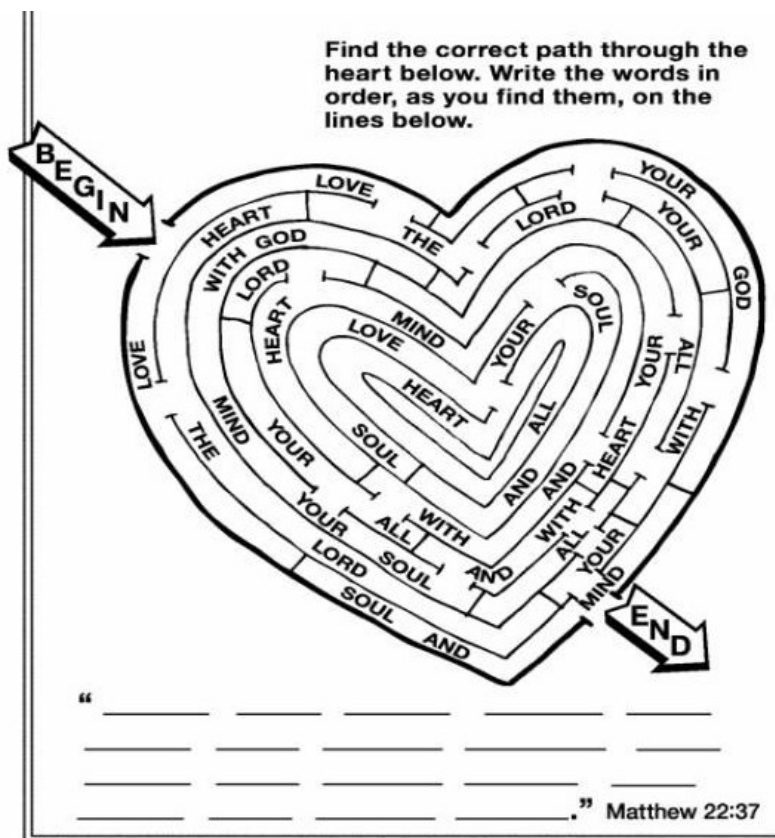


Valentine's birth and early life is not known. He was a Christian Bishop who lived in Ancient Rome. At the time, the Roman emperor wanted all people to worship his gods. He wanted a strong army and did not allow soldiers to marry.

Although it was not allowed, young couples secretly fell in love. They wanted to get married, have families, and practice their Christian religion. Valentine wanted to spread the message of love, and began helping people. He held Mass, married couples and practiced other tradition.

Valentine was soon arrested and put in prison. While in prison, a guard asked him to heal his blind daughter. Valentine kindly agreed, even though he was treated badly.

Valentine died on February 14th, 269. He is considered a saint. Someone who is friends with God and lives in heaven. We celebrate his life on Valentine's Day. It is a special day to spread the message of Love to others.



WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US

1 JOHN 4:19

If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
 - 1 John 4:12

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and truth.
 - 1 John 3:18

True Love

For God so loved the world,
 That He gave
 his only
 Begotten
 Son
 That whosoever
 Believeth in Him
 Should not perish,
 But have everlasting life."
 John 3:16

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Groundhog's Day	3	4	5	6
	← Meals on Wheels →					
			Bible Study 7PM—Zoom			
7 Super Bowl Ordination of Elders & Deacons during service	8 Session Meeting 5:30pm	9	10 Worship Comm. @ 5:30 PM by Zoom Bible Study 7PM—Zoom	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 President's Day	16 Mardi Gras	17 Ash Wednesday Bible Study 7pm— Zoom	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Deadline for Newsletter Bible Study 7PM—Zoom	25	26	27
28						