

THREADS...

From the First Presbyterian Church of Canby
March 2021 Newsletter

The Meaning of Life

Robert Fulghum was once at a meeting where he could not pass up the opportunity to ask a significant question before people left at the conclusion of the gathering: The question he asked was: "What is the meaning of life?"

There was the usual laughter as people avoided getting serious. Some were getting up to leave, but then the organizer, Dr. Alexander Papaderos held up his hand and stilled the room. He looked at Mr. Fulghum for a long time, asking with his eyes if he was serious and seeing from his eyes that he was, said: "I will answer your question."

"As a small child, during the war, we were poor and lived in a remote village. One day, on the road, I found the broken pieces of a mirror. A German motorcycle had been wrecked in that place. I tried to find all the pieces to put them together. I was unable to do it so I kept only the largest piece which I made round by scratching it on a stone."

"In time, I began to play with it and became fascinated by the fact I could reflect light into dark places where the sun would never shine – in deep holes, crevices, and dark closets. It became a game to get light into the most inaccessible places I could find."

In my growing up years, I kept the little mirror. In idle moments I would take it out and continue the challenge of the game. As I became a grown man, I grew to understand that this was not just a child's game. It was a metaphor for what I might do with my life. I came to understand I am not the light or the source of the light. Light, truth, understanding, and knowledge are present in our world. But if it is to shine in the dark places it needs someone to reflect it."

I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know. Nevertheless, with what I have, I can reflect light into the dark places of this world- into the black places in the hearts of men, women, and children – and change some things in some people. Perhaps others may see and do likewise. That is what I am about. This is the meaning of my life."

- Story as told by Robert Fulgham

**If you were asked the meaning of your life,
what would be your answer?**





If you would like to request prayers and to activate the **Prayer Tree**, please reach out to Kathy Merrill by phone or email. Thank You.

Email: krmerrill49@yahoo.com Phone: (507) 829-7709



Stay Connected:

Church Website: www.fpccanby.org — Church Email: fpccanby@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook!  First Presbyterian Church of Canby, MN

- Our Sunday Morning Service is 9:30am
- Facebook Premier Video upload available for at-home viewing Sunday at 1pm.

MEMORIAL GIFT SUGGESTIONS

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A MEMORIAL GIFT TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES ARE SUGGESTED:

- BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS • ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
- LANDSCAPING • MISSION PROJECTS • LIBRARY
- UNDESIGNATED • MUSIC



In-person and Facebook Worship

We have resumed in-person worship services on Sunday Mornings at 9:30am.

Mask wearing is still required at this time and please continue to practice social distancing.

We will continue to upload services via Facebook Premier Video for at home viewers. This is scheduled to upload Sunday at 1pm.



Tithes and Offerings

If you are not joining us in person we kindly ask that you mail in your tithes and offerings to the church. (311 Saint Olaf Avenue N, Canby, Minnesota 56220)



First Presbyterian Church

311 Saint Olaf Avenue N

Canby, Minnesota 56220

www.fpccanby.org

507-223-5148

fpccanby@gmail.com



Lectors

March 7- Marge Frazeur
March 14- Kathy Merrill
March 21- Marge Frazeur
March 28- Keith Rehn

Pulpit Supply

March 7- Karen Houtman
March 14- Stan Menning
March 21- Karen Houtman
March 28- Stan Menning- Palm Sunday

Bulletin Delivery

March 7- Erica Arends
March 14- Jody Olson
March 21- Patty Gubrud
March 28- Katie Groenhoff

Flower Care

Marge Frazeur



Spring Ahead



Church Events This Month

Thurs. Mar. 4, 6:30pm Finance/Property Committee

Wed. Mar. 17, 2:00pm Session Meeting via Zoom

Sun. Mar. 28, Palm Sunday Service

PLEASE NOTE:

Sunday, March 14th- Daylight Savings Time begins.
Spring starts Saturday, March 20!

Prayer Tree- Notify Kathy Merrill by
email: krmerrill49@yahoo.com
phone: (507) 829-7709

Pastoral Needs- Notify Karen Houtman by
email: choutman@frontiernet.net
phone: (507) 223-5331



March 2021

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



March 6- Jody Olson
March 20- Donna Monke
Karen Parsley
Lisa Peterson
March 25- Doreen Benson



March 9- Krystle & Jason Thovson



Lent 2021 Resources

"The Way to Shalom" A Lenten Journey to Peace and Wholeness

Located online at: www.presbyterianmission.org/ministeries/today/Lent2021

There is also a Presbytery devotional gathering on Wednesdays at 7PM via Zoom.

Contact: the Presbytery Office karen@minnesotavalleys.org to register and get the link for Zoom.

2021 Lent Devotional:

"Praying with Scripture During Lent"

A few copies of this devotional will be available at church on Sunday mornings plus copies will be mailed and/or emailed week by week.



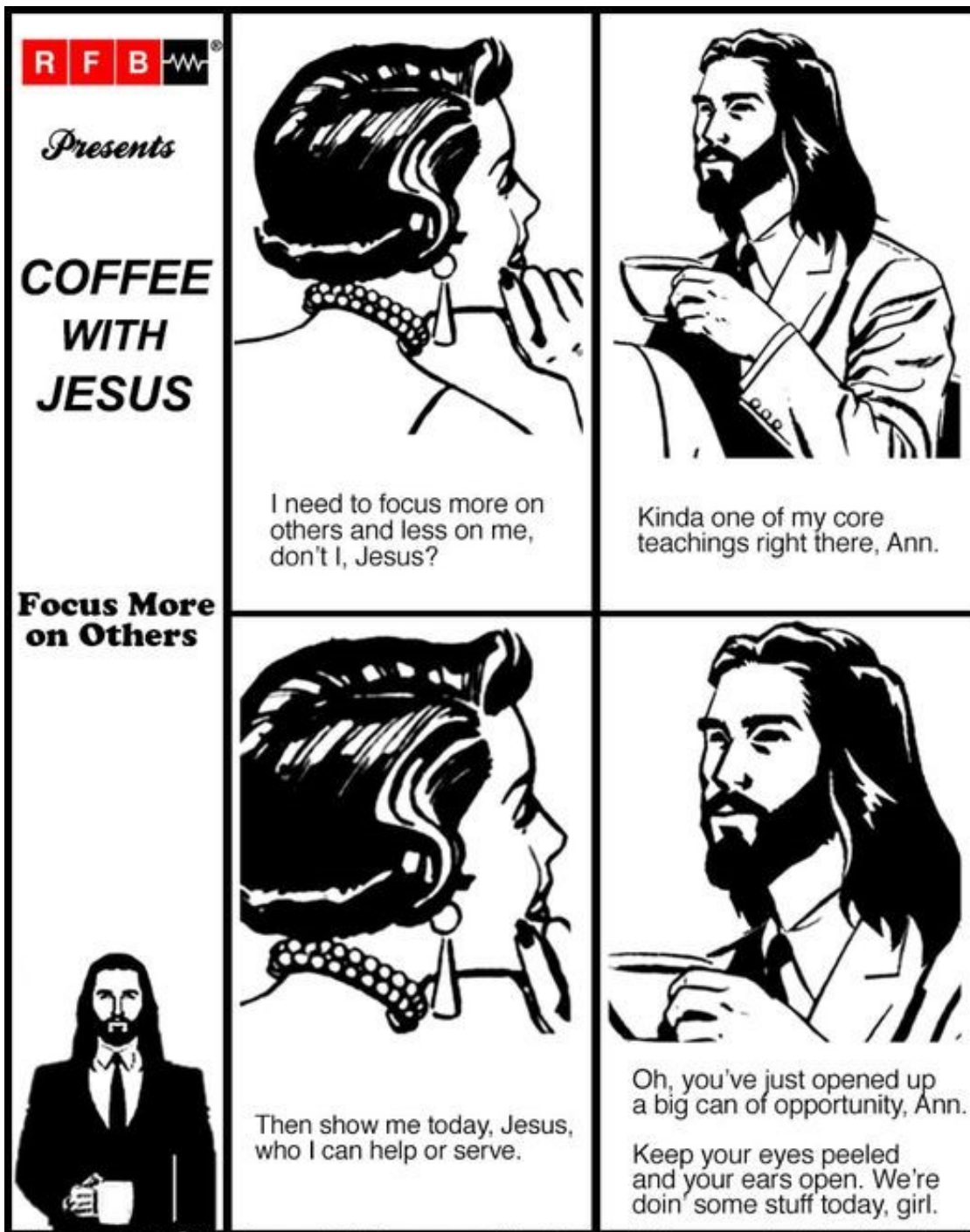
PerCapita- \$43.00 per person for 2021

As part of the 9,304 Presbyterian Churches and 1,415,053 members in those churches, PerCapita is a small but important way that we contribute to the work of the entire church.

Of the \$43.00, \$28.52 supports the work of Minnesota Valleys Presbytery, \$5.50 supports the work of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and \$8.98 supports the work of the General Assembly.

The total contribution for our church for all members is \$3,053. This amount has already been sent to the Presbytery on your behalf. If you have not already done so, please send your \$43.00 to the church. If you have sent it, we say THANK-YOU!





“WHAT GOOD IS IT FOR SOMEONE TO GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, YET FORFEIT THEIR SOUL?” -MARK 8:36

Selfishness Never Satisfies.

It might be a coworker expressing despair in a text... Be the helper. Maybe you witness the person in front of you at the grocery store having their card declined... Pay for them. You see a post on a local group on Facebook seeking donations for a family in need... Give.

When we get our spirits off of ourselves and on to others, we are living the gospel. And we are truly living. — Radio Free Babylon

Session Synopsis– February 17, 2021

Income for January 2021 was less than expenses by a minus \$912.00 as was the year-to-date income less than expenses by a minus \$912.00. A \$49.99 temperature monitor was purchased for the manse. The manse was cleaned at a cost of \$695.75. \$160.21 was paid to Karen Houtman for a ZOOM subscription. Per Capita of \$3,053 was paid to the Presbytery. There were no other unusual expenses.

*Our Moderator, Rev. Anne Veldhuisen from Marshall shared information about herself and gave a brief report of the Presbytery meeting held on February 6. Karen Houtman represented Canby at that meeting.

****Personnel Report-***

-Approved hiring Kathryn Groenhoff as custodian- \$12 per hour.

****Clerk's Report-***

-A Presbytery technology grant application for \$500 was approved. This is to help with the expense of replacing the power point projector.

-Changing the Preparedness Plan to allow for coffee time following worship will be revisited in the next months.

-Action was taken to approve the application for a Congregational Vitality Assessment process at a cost of \$200.

****Property/Finance Report-***

-In response to committee recommendation, it was agreed by consensus to include information in upcoming bulletins and the newsletter regarding issues related to selling or keeping the manse. As soon as is possible, meetings to discuss the issue face-to-face will be arranged.

**Next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 17 at 2PM- in person, if possible.*

THE MANSE: TO SELL OR NOT SELL??

It is the considered opinion of the Session that renting the manse is not an option, because of tax exempt issues and being a landlord can be troublesome.

Reasons to consider selling:

- It is very unlikely that we will need the manse in the future.
- Maintenance/upkeep is ongoing; requiring people, time, as well as cost.
- Utilities continue to be paid each month- heat, etc..
- Due to age of building; potential for costly maintenance in the future.
- Homes not being lived in deteriorate over time.



It is the Session's intention to arrange for a time to discuss this issue face-to-face just as soon as possible. There will also need to be a Congregational meeting called to take action, if the recommendation ultimately is to sell.

First Presbyterian Church of Canby MN

Income/Expenses

January 2021

	January	Year to Date	2021 Budget	% of Budget		January	Year to Date
Expenses					Income		
Salaries					Camp		
*Pastor					Local Mission	4,172.00	4,172.00
*Pastor's Tax Allowance					Per Capita	1125.00	1,125.00
					General Mission		
Pulpit Supply	1050.00	1050.00	10400	10.1%	PCUSA Special Offerings		
Other Salaries					Special Mission Offerings		
Custodian	42.00	42.00	4000	1.1%	Helper Project		
Employer taxes	42.22	42.22	300	14.1%	Memorials		
Workman's Comp			500	0.0%	Thanksgiving Meal		
Allowances (Pastor)					Upper Room/Worship		
*Manse Utilities	246.05	246.05	3000	8.2%	Fellowship/Hospitality		
*Continuing Education					Flowers		
*Pension, Health, Disability					Fuel		
*Family Dental					Other		
					Lenten/Advent Meal		
Mission					Thanksgiving Offering		
Per Capita	3053.00	3053.00	3053	100.0%	Building Improvement	600.00	600.00
General Mission			2000	0.0%	Grants/Refunds		
PCUSA Special Offerings					Mission Committee		
The Connection			1100	0.0%	Use Of Church		
Special Mission Projects							
Helper Project					Total Income	5,897.00	5,897.00
Thanksgiving Meal							
Pastor's Benevolence Fund							
Committees					Assets: January 2021		
Christian Ed/Outreach			1500	0.0%	Checkbook Balance		38,469.64
Camp					Co-op Accounts		5,248.79
Worship/Hospitality	205.00	205.00	1000	20.5%	Endowment PCUSA		40,884.54
Mission Committee					Endowment First Security		16,021.72
Building & Maintenance					Raymond James Fund		11,828.24
Church Utilities	547.38	547.38	10000	5.5%	US Bank Debit Card		
Church Repairs/Maintenance	175.00	175.00	4000	4.4%	Total Assests		112,452.93
Manse Repairs	745.74	745.74	2500	29.8%	Total Liabilities		0.00
Custodial Supplies			300	0.0%			
Property Insurance			14000	0.0%			
Equipment			1500	0.0%			
Property Tax/Fees			20	0.0%			
Office					Funds Carried Over to 2020		
Telephone/Internet	189.60	189.60	2300	8.2%			
Postage			50	0.0%			
Supplies			600	0.0%			
Copier	88.80	88.80	1200	7.4%	Mission Committee	312.61	
Web Page			50	0.0%			
Professional Fees			150	0.0%			
Mileage	84.00	84.00					
Office Other	190.21	190.21	200	95.1%			
Session Expense	150.00	150.00	500	30.0%			
Total	6,809.00	6,809.00	64,223.00	10.6%	Income more than expenses YTD		(912.00)
					Income more than expenses .Dec-20		(912.00)



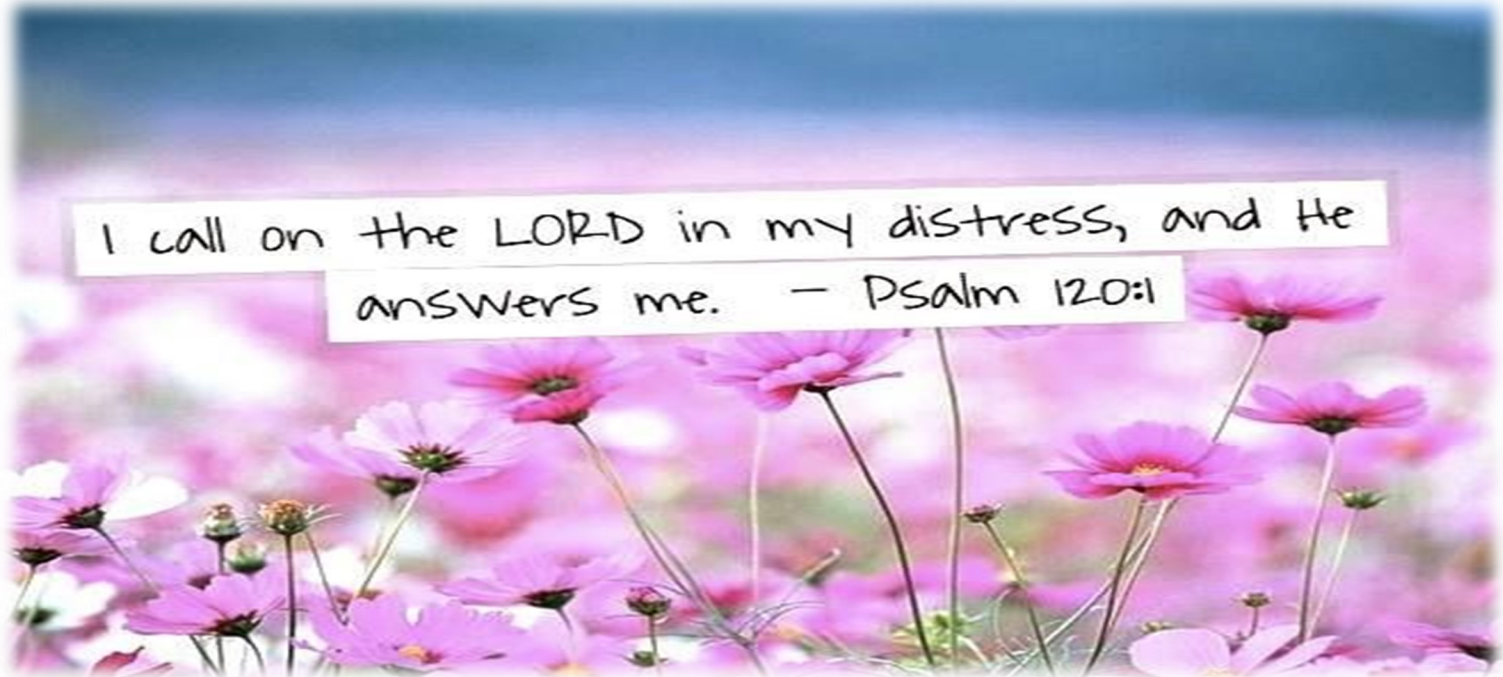
CRITICAL QUESTIONS:



In the past weeks, these Critical Questions have been included in weekly bulletins. We still encourage you to submit responses. The Session needs to know how all members feel in order to seek pastoral leadership that will benefit everyone. Send to: choutman@frontiernet.net

1. What do you feel our First Presbyterian Church has to offer that the world can't live without?
2. What do you feel sets First Presbyterian church apart from churches of other denominations in our Canby community?
3. Why do people join our church? Why do they stay? Why don't they join? (If you don't know, what is your best guess?)
4. What demographic information about Canby do you believe will shape our next five years of ministry?
5. Who is our target audience? What are we currently doing as a congregation to reach out to that target audience? Who is our ideal new member?
6. What issues of faith are engaging the congregation? What is exciting people theologically?
7. What do you feel is the role of the pastor? Rate the following possibilities from most important to lesser importance- feel free to add other roles-
___Preaching ___Pastoral Care ___Administration ___Teaching
___Church growth ___other-() ___other-()
8. Who are we as a congregation? If you were to explain to someone who/what our church is, what would you say?
9. What do you feel are possible areas of growth as well as challenge in the next five years?
10. What programs/areas of our church are or could be calling cards for our church? Which current programs/areas may need to receive more energy and attention? Which current programs/areas may need to be ended?
- 11 a. How much Pastor time per week do you feel is needed to meet our church's needs?
___ Full time (40-50 hrs.) ___Half time (20-25 hrs.) ___Fourth time (5-8 hrs.)
- 11 b. At what hourly level do you feel we can pay a pastor?
Full? Half? Fourth?
- 12 a. How do you feel about keeping our manse so a pastor can live there?
- 12 b. How do you feel about selling our manse to cut expenses of keeping it?





I call on the LORD in my distress, and He
answers me. — Psalm 120:1

“Thanks so very much to all of you for your love, prayers, calls, cards and notes during my 12/22 open heart surgery and recovery. I have completed cardio rehab mid February and each day is better. Larry has been a wonderful caretaker and I feel so blessed to have so many people keeping me in prayer. Please continue to pray for a successful recovery. God bless you all and thanks again.”

—Dede Burlingame

