

† PresbyNews †



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Issue #3

March

2025

Oswald Chambers challenges us, “Never try to explain God until you have obeyed Him. The only bit of God we understand is the bit we have obeyed.” In James 1:19-25, James tells us that the path to spiritual growth is the Bible. *Hear* it (1:19). *Accept* it (1:25). And this month: *Do* it: “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says” (1:22).

Folks tend to fall into two camps. Some will grit their teeth and try to obey. Others will say, “Pfff! I don’t need somebody telling me how to live!” Yet both misunderstand the nature of God’s Word. In 1:25, James calls the Bible the “law of liberty.” He’s using “law” in its Old Testament sense of “instruction.” But how can instruction on how to live bring *freedom*? Don’t directives *limit* freedom?

While modern people often think of freedom as the *absence of restriction*, real freedom is actually being released to live *as you were made to live*. Fish are a perfect example. Imagine a boy “liberating” a fish from the confining, restricting water. “Be free in the yard, little guy!” Unless the fish is “restricted” to the water, it loses all liberty! Only within the water does it have speed and vitality, strength and beauty, life and energy. And if we’re fish, the Bible tells us where to find our water.

Or imagine the Bible is your owner’s manual. The manual’s full of instructions: change the oil, replace the filters, rotate the tires, check the fluids, get a new timing belt at 75K, etc. As the owner you are perfectly free to object: “*I choose not to follow these teachings*. I already know how to drive.” That’s fine! No one will *force* you to maintain your vehicle. But pretty soon you’ll be stuck by the side of the road.

Likewise the Bible is our owner’s manual, showing us *how to live as God designed us to live*. God says: “I made you to be like *me*. I am true so you are meant to be too. So lying will tie you in knots! I am forgiving and you are meant to be too. So holding grudges will imprison you! I am kind and you are meant to be too. So hating will restrict your spirit!”

James says: hear Bible, accept Bible, do Bible.

And as you do, keep an eye on Christ. He alone *perfectly* followed God’s Word. And the good news is that he did it all *for you*. Jesus fulfilled God’s word twice. First he completely followed it. Second, he took the punishment for our law-breaking. Without that life-changing reality, just about every page on the Bible condemns us for our failures. But in Christ there is no condemnation. So now every page of the Bible becomes a new way to live fully, a new way to please the Jesus who loves you, and a new way to thank the Jesus who saved you!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Andrew

First Presbyterian Church

March, 2025

Dates to Remember—Meetings and Notices

- March
- 02 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ The Plains @ 8:00 AM
Sunday School (All ages) @ 9:20 AM
Worship/Communion @ 10:30 AM
- 03 Home Communion @ Avantara @ 10:00 AM
Home Communion @ Wellshire @ 10:30 AM
- 05 Praise Team practice @ 5:15 PM
Youth Club/Supper @ 6:00 PM
Ash Wednesday Service from 7:00 – 7:30 PM
- 09 Sunday School (All ages) @ 9:20 AM
Worship @ 10:30 AM
Open Table-Session hosting – after Worship
Daylight Savings Begins! Spring Ahead!
- 11 Christian Education Comm. meeting @ 6:30 PM
Mission/Evangelism Comm. meeting @ 6:30 PM
Church Life Comm. meeting @ 6:30 PM
Administrative Comm. meeting @ 7:00 PM
Building/Grounds Comm. meeting @ 7:00 PM
Worship/Music Comm. meeting @ 7:00 PM
Session meeting @ 7:30 PM
Shirley Fullerton is 98 today! Happy Birthday!
She requested that this be noted!
- 12 Praise Team practice @ 5:15 PM
Youth Club/Supper @ 6:00 PM
- 16 Men's Prayer Breakfast @ The Plains @ 8:00 AM
Sunday School (All ages) @ 9:20 AM
Worship @ 10:30 AM
- 19 Praise Team practice @ 5:15 PM
Youth Club/Supper @ 6:00 PM
- 20 Ministerial Association Food Give Away @ People's
Transit from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Helpers needed!
- 23 Sunday School @ 9:20 AM
Worship @ 10:30 AM
Open Table – Deacons hosting – after Worship
- 26 Praise Team practice @ 5:15 PM
Youth Club/Supper @ 6:00 PM
- 30 Sunday School (All ages) @ 9:20 AM
Worship @ 10:30 AM
Holy Buckets Sunday

Elder for March, 2025 - Spencer Shoultz

Deacon for March, 2025 – Barb Peterson

Prayer Ministry

Members

Jerry Galliger

Tana Hagle

Linda Marcus

Steve and Diane Peters

Roger Tarbox

Susan Galliger

Ron & Sharon Hastings

Larry Neuharth

Rev. Allen Sager

Louise Van Poll

Chuck Groth

Phyllis Lemke

Kevin Parmely

Jackie Sievers

Corinne Wipf

Family & Friends

Lori Burns and Rick Hein Family (continues with health issues)

Dale Daugherty (Linda Marcus' nephew)

Joyce Balliette (Jan LaMont's sister)

Debbie Caudell (Maggie Caudell's mother-in-law)

Juli Wolf (JoLynne Parmely's sister)

Jene Carroll (JoLynne Parmely's brother-in-law)

Glen Hohn (Brenda Schmidt's cousin)

Doug Meiers (Donna Meiers' son)

John Gifford (friend of the Sager's)

Macario Sales (Wade Katz's grandson)

Joyce Borah (Jamie Peterson's mother)

David Hepper (Greg's brother with advanced lung/pancreatic cancer)

Stanley Martens (friend of the Sager's)

Wendy (Paulson) Riesetter (niece of Nancy Shoultz)

Ronnie Cunnigan (Lori Magness' cousin)

Doug Zeeck (father of Mindy Eden, Bryan Eden's wife)

Velda Zeeck (Mindy Eden's grandmother) recovering from surgery

Patricia DeVaney (Greg Hepper's sister) diagnosed with pancreatic cancer

Pam Oschner (friend of Barb Peterson, Calajean Kopfmann and others)

Brayden Schlader (friend of Deannie LeRoux)

Robert Palmiteer (Jan LaMont's cousin)

Dawn Nebelsick (Linda Pietz's sister-in-law) cancer treatment

Donald Schmidt (Alan Schmidt's brother) recovering from falls

Mark Holloway (Diane Clayton's brother)



Assisted Living, Nursing Homes & Home Bound

Avantara Nursing Home: Eva Vilhauer, Sara Jorgensen, Phyllis Lemke,
Larry Neuharth and Jackie Sievers

Peaceful Pines: Inez Eddy

Stoneybrook Suites: Eileen Dracy

Wellshire Village: Shirley Fullerton and Deannie LeRoux

DeSmet: Ruth Winter

Please let the office know of changes that should be made to the above prayer concerns. Thank you!

Please note: The 2024 Giving Statements that were not picked up have been mailed out.

Please note: There are some corrections in the Membership listing found in the 2024 Annual Report as follows:

Teri Bierstedt – correct phone number is 605-350-6476

Greg and Donna Hepper – correct phone number is 605-380-6780

Dennis and Kathryn Meyer – their zip code is 57785

Dylan and Tabitha Unruh – their son's name is Mayer

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We've Got Mail!

**"Thank you so much for your donation of gloves and school supplies that you donated to our school. That was so kind and thoughtful of you and we appreciate your generosity. Thank you so much!"
Madison 2-3 Center Staff**

**"Thank you for the newsletter. It is nice to hear how everyone is. I hope spring is on the way. I am ready to enjoy my garden!"
Love, Joan Daugherty**

**"Hello! Troy was Pastor at your Church from 1995-2000. We greatly appreciated your sending the newsletter for all these years as we keep up with the beloved members of First Pres. Huron. I am enclosing a donation (postage) for all the years you sent the newsletter. We are getting ready to retire and wish to be removed from the mailers. God Speed."
Troy and Marie Winder**

**Note: Angel Haus is located in the prior Violet Tschetter Memorial Home. Many of the residents (men and women) are admitted with no belongings at all. They are transferring from in-patient, lockdown, mental health facilities and have nothing to their name. So, we have to build from the ground up, and they receive \$100 a month for unallocated spending. The Mission committee is asking for help collecting new or slightly used: winter wear (coats, hats, gloves, scarves), clothing and shoes, games, movies, activities, toiletries razors, toothbrushes, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, dental) for Angel Haus residents through March. Thank you!
Brenda 605-354-1822 cell**

An Invitation for You!

You are invited to the Living Stone
Prison Church & Freedom's Gate
Church Banquet

It will be a great night filled with
yummy food, great entertainment
and fellowship!

Where: Bethan Reformed Church,
Canton, SD

When: Thursday, March 20, 2025 at
6:30 PM

R&VP: Please let us know by
calling/texting 605-366-3624 by
March 16th if you can come, so we can
plan on how much food to make.

Pastor Dan will be giving a ministry update on
Living Stone activities and Pastor Jason will be
telling you more about Freedom's Gate Church.
Also, we will be hearing from a few former
inmates how God has used the ministry to
encourage and strengthen their Christian walk.

It's a Strike and Fun!



Family Bowling Event 02-22-2025



More Family Bowling Fun!





Thanks for sharing pictures of a fun evening had by all our skaters! So much fun with Family Skate time on 02/19/2025!

Thank you, Senior High Youth Group and Leaders, for another great Valentine's Day meal! Maggie, Paige, and the Senior Highs work hard to prepare for this fundraiser and your support of it means so much. Wish we had a few pictures to share as the Dining Room looked fantastic!

Thanks, too, to the Church Life Committee for the Super Bowl Snacks on Super Bowl Sunday.