

NEB-KAN Parish First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Falls City, NE Hiawatha, KS
February 2018 / March 2018

Worship Times: January 7, 2018 to April 29, 2018
Hiawatha—9am Falls City—11am

REV. NANCY'S NOTES

We are racing toward Lent, at what feels like breakneck speed! I cannot believe that it is already January 26, 2018 as I write this column!

Lent is a time for us to slow down and breath, at least where our faith is concerned. Jesus has called each of us to follow him and this is a time for each of us to reflect on what that call looks like and how we have might draw closer to God; walk closer to the way Jesus walked; and make a course correction if we need.

Many of us have a very limited understanding of what Lent is all about. We think that if we give up chocolate, dessert, or meat on Fridays that we are doing what we have been called to do, but Lent is a time to deepen our relationship with God and maybe find a new purpose or mission in our life. If when we give up a food, we instead, fill this space with prayer or contemplation about Jesus' teachings, then, by all means give up a specific food, but most of us simply give up the food and do very little else.

This year each congregation will have the opportunity to come together into a Bible study about the Gospel of Mark and listen and learn from each other as we journey together. We are seeking to meet over some type of meal, so it will feel more relaxed and comfortable, much like the early church. We want to make room for everyone, so if you have any questions or suggestions, I would be happy to listen.

God's blessings and mine, Pastor Nancy

First Presbyterian Church
701 Kickapoo
Hiawatha, KS 66434

+++++++PARISH NEWS+++++++

We will collect the Souper bowl offering on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4. Bring non-perishable items for the food pantry or cash donations for the Falls City Ministerial emergency fund or the Hiawatha Ministerial Alliance emergency fund.

Cheer for your favorite team and join in the fight against hunger!



One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing campaign will kick-off on February 18. These gifts are a reminder that through the simple act of sharing, we are blessed, and we experience God's abundance in surprising ways. We will complete our campaign with a dedication on Easter Sunday, April 1.

Food Banks—Hiawatha Food Pantry and SENCA

The following are items that both food pantries are in need. Please bring to church.

- Jars of Peanut butter
- Cans of tuna and/or chicken
- Boxes of Macaroni and cheese or boxed meals (hamburger helper)
- Canned vegetables and fruit
- Cereal (low sugar)
- Spices
- Cake mixes
- Soup (low sodium preferably)
- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent

+++++++FALLS CITY NEWS+++++++

COOKIES

The churches of Falls City take turns providing cookies to the area nursing homes. Our month is February and we usually collect the cookies on the first Sunday. If possible, each church family is asked to bring 3 dozen cookies to church on February 4. You could also bring them earlier and put them in the church freezer. Make sure to mark them as "Nursing Home Cookies." If you need someone to pick up your cookies, call or e-mail Jennifer James (245-7828). Marlene & Larry Schwarting will deliver them on Monday, February 5. It helps the nursing homes if you label ingredients that some residents might need to avoid. Please mark the containers or bags with notes such as "chocolate" or "nuts" or anything else they might need to know.

Easter Cantata

Ann Claymiller and Jennifer James will again sing in the Humboldt area community choir. This year's cantata is "A Journey to Hope" based on spirituals such as "Wade in the Water", "They Crucified my Lord", and "Ride On, King Jesus". The choir began as a Bicentennial celebration in 1976 and presents two concerts each Palm Sunday. Vocalists come from Sabetha, KS, Johnson, NE and many communities in between. Doug Kirkendall will direct and Doug Kottich will be the accompanist. A special number will honor the late Sue Steffen who sang for many years. The concerts will be Sunday, March 25 at First Methodist Church, Humboldt. Practices will be Sunday evenings beginning in February. Talk to Ann or Jennifer if you would like more information.

Community Diaper Closet

The Community Diaper Closet opened on January 10. We are distributing information to different places including SENCA and the Brethren Church Clothing Bank. We are in need of additional donations though. The following list are items we are short on.

- Newborn diapers
- Pull-up diapers in all sizes
- Zip lock bags (of different sizes)
- Baby lotion, shampoo, and wash
- Boy's gently used clothing
- Baby wipes

Lenten Bible Study

During the season of Lent, we will be studying the Gospel of Mark. We will be using the lectionary texts as well as portions of Mark that are not found in the Year B rotation of scripture. This will be a time for us to come together, share food and fellowship, study and discuss the scripture. Falls City will be meeting right after church at noon on Sundays (we can pick one or a number of different restaurants at which to meet). Hiawatha will meet at various members homes, beginning at Nancy and Dan’s home at 4:00pm. This will begin on February 18 and continue throughout Lent (finishing on March 25).

Falls City ‘Sermons a la Carte’ schedule

The Fruit of the Spirit – Living Christ-like Lives in a Broken World

Sermons a la Carte 2018 – Falls City Area Ministerial Association

Love and Self-Control as the “bookends” of our discussion of the “fruit of the Spirit”

February 16	Joy	First United Methodist Church	The Rev. Andrew Chavanak <i>St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Church (20th & Towle)</i>
February 23	Peace	First Church of the Nazarene	Fr. Cole Kennett <i>Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church</i>
March 2	Patience	First Christian Church	Mr. Rick Martin <i>First Presbyterian Church, Humboldt</i>
March 9	Kindness	St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Church	The Rev. Stephen Floyd <i>First Church of the Nazarene</i>
March 16	Goodness	Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church	The Rev. Fay Ann Blaylock <i>First Christian Church (DOC) and Zion United Church of Christ</i>
March 23	Faithfulness	First Presbyterian Church	The Rev. Dr. Alan Hanson <i>First United Methodist Church (Falls City) and Trinity United Methodist Church (Rulo)</i>
March 30	Gentleness	St. Thomas Episcopal Church	The Rev. Nancy Tuma <i>First Presbyterian Churches (Falls City, NE + Hiawatha, KS)</i>

Hiawatha Lenten Luncheons

The Lenten Lunches begin by meeting at the First Christian Church on Wednesday, February 21 at Noon. The place will be announced weekly in the bulletin always beginning at Noon on February 21 & 28 and March 7, 14, 21 and 28.

Ash Wednesday

The Neb-Kan Parish Ash Wednesday Service will be in Falls City on February 14 at 7:00pm.

Maundy Thursday

The Neb-Kan Parish Maundy Thursday Service will be in Hiawatha on March 29 at 7:00pm

+++++++HIAWATHA NEWS+++++++

Coffee Fellowship

February 04—Morgan Pralle
February 11—Courtney Riley
February 18—Deloris Ripple
February 25—Barb Rupe



March 04—Pam Smith
March 11—Kristin Soden
March 18—Julia Thompson
March 25—Nancy Tuma



February Greeter—Debi Wright
February Usher—Austyn Koch

March Greeter—Mary Jane Dawson
March Usher—Terry Smith