



# Service Sunday

*An opportunity for us to practice our Christian beliefs  
by helping people in our everyday community.*

# First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul

## SERVICE SUNDAY

January 31, 2016

10:00 a.m.

*\*please stand in body or in spirit*

GATHERING MUSIC “This Is the Day the Lord Has Made” *Bock*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Tom Watson

CENTERING SILENCE

INTROIT “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” *Spiritual*  
Festival Choir  
*I’m gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) Psalm 104

Bless God, O my soul! God has great wonders for us!

**The works of God are bountiful, the earth is full of God’s creation.**

The hands of God open and we are filled with good and wonderful life.

**May we rejoice in your works, God of Glory.**

**You endure forever in this creation.**

Sing to God as long as we live!

**Let us rejoice in God’s everlasting blessings.**

\*HYMN “For Everyone Born” *Hymnal # 769*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**God of great expectations, you know how easy it is for us to make excuses for inactivity. We love to run and hide when a task is set before us. We look at the expectation and think that we don't have the abilities, strength, or wisdom to accomplish this task. We think, too often, that we are doing these things all by ourselves. Forgive our ignorance and our stubbornness, O Lord. Help us to understand that the opportunities for service that you offer to us also come with your abiding presence, love and support. Turn us around and place us back on the path of joyful service. For it is in his name that we pray. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (responsive)

Even before we were born, God knew us.

**God has always been with us.**

Place your trust in God's presence and forgiving love.

**Rejoice! In the name of Jesus Christ, we all are forgiven!**

**\*RESPONSE**

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

*Hymnal # 469*

## **A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (unison)

Jody Glowaski

**Lord, our souls wait for you; in your words we find hope. Open our hearts to embrace your love, open our minds to receive your teaching, open our hands to accept the task you set before us, to live together as your children and love each other as Christ loves us. Amen.**

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE**

Jeremiah 1: 4-10

*O.T. p. 698*

**ANTHEM**

“Set Me As a Seal”

*Clausen*

*Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm,  
for love is strong as death.  
Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can the floods drown it.*

**GOSPEL**

Luke 4: 21-30

*N.T. p. 61*

**SERMON**

**Politics and Religion**

Tom Watson

**\*HYMN**

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”  
(vs. 1-2)

*Hymnal # 729*

## **RECEPTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS**

**INVITATION TO SHARE**

**\*OFFERTORY**

“I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”  
*I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna pray...  
I'm gonna sing...*

*Spiritual*

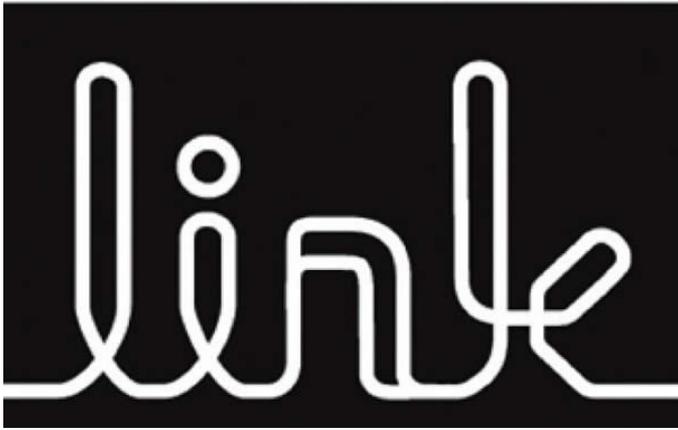
**\*HYMN**

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”  
***Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart...  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart...***

## **CLOSING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BLESSING**

# THE



## ***About The Link...***

The Link's mission is to build a supportive community that links youth and their families to their inner strength through life skills, education, advocacy, supportive housing, and a dynamic network of social services to transform lives. Our vision sees a future in which supportive communities nurture confident, happy and secure youth.

The Link's newest program, C.O.R.E. (Community. Outreach. Resources. Empowerment.), is where these hygiene kits will go. C.O.R.E is a resource center with drop-in hours, provides an easy access point of entry for youth

experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness in Dakota County. Youth up to age 24 can drop in without appointment and a community meal is also available on Thursdays.

Some of the services and programming available at C.O.R.E. include: support applying for benefits and public assistance, transportation assistance, meals, referrals and access to shelter and housing, hygiene kits and other basic needs, laundry, showers and haircuts, crisis intervention, and use of phone number and mailing address for job applications.

Your help in purchasing and assembling these kits will be greatly appreciated by our adolescent neighbors.



## **SERVING US TODAY**

**Greeters:** Charlotte & Neal Hubbard

**Head Usher:** Randy Bourgoin

**Ushers:** Tom Brazill, Bill Hickok, Syd & Willard Lee

**Lector:** Jody Glowaski

**Cover photo:** From our last "Service Sunday" project in 2014.

**Music Director:** Linda Kachelmeier

**Organist:** Jen Bierlein

**Pastors:** Katie Estes, Tom Watson

**Youth Coordinator:** Ruth Buller

**Church Administrator:** Eleta Pierce

**Prayer Chain Contact:**

Church Office (651) 451-6223

# First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul

535 20th Avenue North, South St. Paul, MN 55075

651-451-6223 · [www.fpcssp.org](http://www.fpcssp.org)

**Welcome** to First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul. We are delighted that you have joined us to worship the Living God. **If you are a first time worship guest**, we extend a special welcome to you. Know that as our guest, you are invited to participate in any of the programs offered and we do not expect you to contribute when the offering is received. Today, your presence with us is your offering to God.

**Photos and/or video may be taken during this worship service.** FPC-SSP reserves the right to use said photos or video in church publications, including, but not limited to, bulletins, newsletters, the church website, and social media sites. If you prefer not to appear in these photos or video, please talk to one of the ushers.

**If you have a prayer request**, please use the yellow request cards in the pews. Give the card to an usher before worship or during the first hymn so it can be included in our prayers of the people today and passed on to the prayer chain as well.

**Children of all ages are welcome in our worship service.** We also have professional childcare available for infants and children up to 5 years. The nursery is located at the top of the stairs in the upper level of the Education wing and is always available on those days your child may be restless. If you have an infant who begins to cry during the service, feel free to go into the library with your child and continue to hear the service on the speaker.

**Please join us after the worship service for a time of fellowship in the Commons.** Coffee, juice and treats are available for a minimal charge for members and at no cost for guests. Come and connect with old and new friends as we enjoy fellowship together.

## On The Calendar

### **Today, January 31**

*Service Sunday*

- 8:30 a.m. Education for All
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:30 a.m. All-Church Service Project & Lunch

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

7:15 p.m. Festival Choir

### **Monday, February 1**

- 7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

### **Tuesday, February 2**

- 6:30 p.m. Property
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Ministry
- 7:00 p.m. Children's Ministry
- 7:00 p.m. Come As You Are
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee

### **Wednesday, February 3**

- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. Jubilation Ringers
- 6:15 p.m. Bells of Praise
- 6:30 p.m. Drumming Circle

### **Thursday, February 4**

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Study Group
- 6:00 p.m. NA Board

### **Friday, February 5**

- 7:00 p.m. First Friday Film Forum
- 7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

### **Sunday, February 7**

*Annual Meeting*

- 8:30 a.m. Education for All
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Annual Meeting
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour

## Next Sunday, February 7

**Scripture:** Luke 9: 2-36

**Theme:** Annual Meeting

**Music:** "Funga Alafia" with Drumming Circle & Children

**Adult Ed:** "We Know How This Ends" series with Deb DeMeester



### Announcements

#### **Today is our All-Church Service Project!**

This morning we will have a shortened service. We will then move to Fellowship Hall where we will assemble hygiene kits for *The Link* by walking from station to station to gather the items in a bag. After we're finished assembling the kits, we'll join together in fellowship for lunch.

**The church building will not have power tomorrow morning, February 1,** while Xcel Energy replaces a power pole outside of our building. We recommend not coming to the church in the morning, phones may not work either. Power is expected to be restored by noon.

**The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Congregation is set for next Sunday,** February 7, in the Sanctuary immediately following worship. Please note that because we have congregational meals planned for the Sundays before and after, there will not be a meal served this day. Paper copies of the 2015 Annual Report are available in the Commons. If you take a copy, please remember to bring it back with you next Sunday.

**Don't forget to pick up your Scrip!** Stop by the table in the Commons after the service project to receive yours.

**Souper Bowl of Caring:** The youth will be collecting donations in soup pots on Super Bowl Sunday (next Sunday) following the worship service to help with homelessness and community members in need. All funds collected will go to Neighbors, Inc.

**This month's First Friday Film will be "The Martian,"** starring Matt Damon, on February 5. During a manned mission to Mars, Astronaut Mark Watney (Damon) is presumed dead after a fierce storm and left behind by his crew. But Watney has survived and finds himself stranded and alone on the hostile planet. With only meager supplies, he must draw upon his ingenuity, wit and spirit to subsist and find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive. The film depicts his struggle to survive and others' efforts to rescue him. The movie starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Knox room, followed by treats and good conversation.

**Our next date to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children** will be Monday, February 8, from 8:00 to 9:30 pm. Sign up at the kiosk in the Commons, or by calling the church office. We would love to see you there, so if you need a ride, check that box on the sign up sheet on the kiosk. Leave all jewelry, watches and earrings at home and join us for a nice change of scenery.

**Join the fun in our community garden this summer.** There are a limited number of plots available. To reserve one, submit an application between January 24th and February 15th. 10x20 plots are \$40, 10x15 plots are \$35; there is a \$20 deposit. Applications are available in the office and on the the church website: <http://www.fpcssp.org/serve/community-garden/> For more information, contact Heather (507-459-6921) or Paul (651-271-2327).