

# The Presbyter

February 2016

# The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

# Mardi Gras Jazz Communion with Presbybop Dixieland Sextet

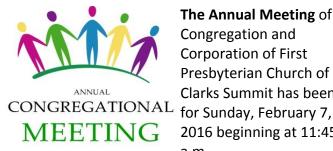
Sunday, February 7, 2016 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a festive worship celebration on the Sunday before Lent begins. We welcome notable musicians from the area to chase away the blues of winter with lively music.



Our guests include Jeff Leas on trumpet, Tom Hamilton on clarinet, Ron Leas on trombone, Tony Marino on bass, Tyler Dempsey on drums, and Rev. Bill Carter on piano.

Invite your friends! Bring your neighbors! All are welcome at the Church on the Hill.



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit has been set 2016 beginning at 11:45 a.m.

A potluck lunch will take place at approximately 11:00 a.m. Please bring a dish to share and your own table setting. Dessert and beverage will be provided.



Lent comes early this year! Join us for worship on Ash Wednesday, sday February 10, at 7 p.m.



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## Notes from the Session Meeting on January 10, 2016

- 1. The nominating committee has started to meet to find new church officers and if anyone would like to suggest someone to be a elder or deacon, please contact Heather Acker, Chairman.
- 2. The Session is very thankful for all of your pledge support and donations to First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit in 2015. We had a very good year with all of our member and friends support. Thank You.
- 3. Our attendance totals for 2015 showed a slight increase for the year. Thank you for your attendance.

Per Capita 2016 is \$32.00 per person.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015

#### **REVENUE**

| Budget          | \$<br>394,700 |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Actual Received | 395,884       |
| Difference      | \$<br>1,184   |

======

#### **EXPENSES**

| Budget          | \$<br>411,757 |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Actual Expenses | 407,969       |
| Difference      | \$<br>3,788   |

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ (12,085)

The 2015 Budget projected a deficit of (\$17,057).

## PLEDGE INCOME

 Budget
 \$ 320,000

 Received
 318,294

 Difference
 \$ (1,706)

Per Capita Update 2015:

Total Received to date - \$4,450

#### The Presbyter deadline for The March issue is February 12, 2016

<u>The Presbyter</u> is a monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church, 300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411.

All visitors are welcome to worship with us. Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Child care is available. Communion is observed the first Sunday of every month.

If you do not attend a church in this area, we invite you to any and all of the events, programs, and worship services described in this newsletter. Please call the church office to arrange child care. Our sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are both handicapped accessible.

**Church Office** (570) 586-6306 (570) 587-3784 Fax Web Page www.fpccs.org **Pastor** William G. Carter **Administrative Assistant** Nancy Owens **Treasurer** Wayne Griffiths Editor Lindsey Hardy Clerk of Session Beverly Bright **Director of Music** Frank Jones Director of Bells Richard Cochrane **Director of Chapel Choir** Kay Ten Eyck **Organist** Kay Ten Eyck Sexton John Conklin



Lent is a time for reflection. As we move into Lent and during Lent, the Music, Worship, & Arts committee is asking that everyone worshiping join the committee, pastor, and choir members in taking a moment at the end of each Sunday worship service to reflect and meditate during the postlude.

If you must leave worship early, please leave quietly and peacefully to allow others to listen to the postlude.



# From the Pastor

William G. Carter

Dear Friends,

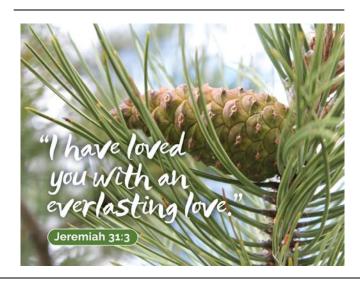
Did you know that Presbyterians assist those who are greatly afflicted by blizzards, storms, and flooding? Yes, we do that through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, one of the beneficiaries of our upcoming One Great Hour of Sharing offering during Lent!

This wonderful ministry provides help in three primary ways:

- 1. **Financial support** to the needs of a community in the wake of the disaster. These funds are used in a variety of ways depending on the needs in the community and the gaps left by other responding agencies. There are no set rules about the use of the money, with two exceptions: (a) Funds are not used to make direct cash payments to survivors, so as to avoid becoming an entitlement program without accountability. (b) Funds may not be used as a loan. Assistance is a free gift of the church., based on need.
- 2. **Funds frequently are used to set up the long-term recovery program in the community.** Following a disaster many organizations provide funds for survivors. The Red Cross, FEMA and Salvation Army assist with food, clothing and shelter. However, no governmental funds will support the cost of the organization to coordinate the ongoing use of volunteers, donated materials and case management. These organizations are essential for the long-term recovery of the community.
- 3. **Support for Spiritual and Emotional Care for the Caregivers.** When disaster strikes the church has a special responsibility to those who are most vulnerable to the secondary stresses of responding to the needs of others: pastors, church leaders and caregivers. Church funds are used to ensure that the spiritual needs of church leaders, pastors and caregivers are available to the community.

I am proud to be part of a Christian fellowship that takes human need seriously. As I see news reports of natural disasters around our nation and world, I take heart that Presbyterians are present to alleviate suffering. Together let's support One Great Hour of Sharing, as a way to heal some of the hurts of our world! Yours in faith, hope, and love,

Rev. Bill



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#### **Board of Deacons**

Care Team Ministry Coordinators are:

Independent & Assisted Living: Sara Ann Hosier 587-0371

Deacon Meals: Donna Kepler 587-2729

Time of Loss:

Emergency Home Repair/ Joe Waters 586-7233 Maintenance: Greg Matthews 587-2644

Please let the Board of Deacons Care Team Coordinators or the church office know if anyone is in need of care.

We're here to care for FPC members and friends and we count on all of you to let us know when help is needed. This is our ministry and our Christian privilege to care for you.



The 2016 flower calendar is posted in the hallway next to Rev. Carter's office. If you would like to provide flowers for a Sunday worship service, please indicate this on the flower calendar and you will be contacted.

# MISSION AND JUSTICE

# Souper Bowl of Caring February 7

The Souper Bowl of Caring utilizes Super Bowl weekend in America to mobilize people to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. Collections will be taken after the 10:00 service and the money collected will go to the Abington Ecumenical Food Pantry in Dalton to assist people in need in our area.

## Camp & Conference Ministries Sunday February 14

Camp is a good model for community. At camp, children and adults alike have a great opportunity to demonstrate all that Christ called us to do: to be patient, kind, forgiving and loving—in a beautiful setting. The community made of campers and staff is a very practical example of what the church can be. Camp is a place where all can be welcome, regardless of their gifts or skills.

Camp Lackawanna, our local Presbyterian camp in the Endless Mountains, offers such a community. In their words, "Camp Lackawanna is the living sanctuary where people of all ages come to experience God's creation and the grace of Jesus Christ through prayer, fellowship, and learning to care for the natural world and one another." Take some time to pray for Camp Lackawanna and the impact it has on campers and staff.

### Blue Shirt Sunday February 14

For years, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been identified with the blue T-shirts worn by volunteers who come and work to repair damaged homes and provide comfort to those whose lives have been disrupted by a disaster. The color blue was chosen to represent the blue tarps that provide temporary shelter in disasters, protecting people and their possessions. The blue shirts that proclaim "Out of Chaos, Hope" have become a beacon in communities rocked to the core by disaster.

February 14, the first Sunday in Lent, has been designated as "Wear your blue T-shirt to church Sunday," a testament to one of the ways One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference. If you haven't been a volunteer and don't have a blue T-shirt, you can wear other blue clothing to support the work of PDA.

# Festival of Ice Activities at First Presbyterian Church

Mark the weekend of February 12-14 on your calendar. Our church will participate in the Clarks Summit Festival of Ice. Check out the variety of activities taking place at the church that weekend:

Entertainment by Abington Piano Academy students - Saturday, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy the music.



Art Show (organized again by Elaine Tweedy)

Friday 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday 9 a.m. - 12 noon in the Session Room. The show will include a juried photography show and artwork from church members.

Chili Café: Saturday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Chili will be provided by members of the Men's Bible Study and others (see note below). A "taste test" by celebrity judges will be held at 12:00 noon.



An ice sculpture will be displayed at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Juggler Rob Smith will amaze everyone as he flawlessly juggles balls, clubs, fire torches, and rings, not to mention flying knives with razor-sharp accuracy. Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



Renewal of Marriage Vows:
On Valentines Day, Sunday,
February 14, Rev. Carter will offer
an opportunity for couples to renew

their wedding vows. All romantic duos are welcome in the sanctuary at 11:15 a.m.



# Calling all artists ... and makers of delicious chili

Anyone interested in submitting art work to the FPC Art Show (see above), please contact Elaine Tweedy through email (<u>elainetweedy@gmail.com</u>) or cell phone (570-575-1705) before February 5. Artists will need to fill out submission forms and provide the title of your artwork for publication and labeling purposes. Art work submitted must be different from what was submitted last year. It would need to be dropped off on February 11 between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. at the church, to be hung that evening. Elaine hopes for enthusiastic participation by church members.

**Northeast Photography** will hold an opening to their juried show on the evening of Friday, February 12, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. which will include light refreshments. The Art Show will continue through Saturday, and will be open while the church is open on Sunday, February 14. Artwork pick up will be Sunday at Noon.

**Pots of Chili are Needed:** The Chili Cafe will be open on Saturday, February 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are looking for folks to bring pots of chili for our Chili Cook-off that day. Please contact John Conklin (570-563-0211) or Karen White (570-563-2135) by Sunday, February 7 if you can bring some chili.

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THE W.A.Y.



The  $\underline{W}$ ednesday  $\underline{A}$ dults and  $\underline{Y}$ outh Christian Education

"I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE"

Supper, 5:00 \* Classes for all ages, 6:15

#### **Important Dates:**

**Wednesday, February 10,** Ash Wednesday, classes will be held from 6:15-6:55 p.m., followed immediately by worship.

**Sunday, March 20** we will have a Holy Week program after worship. All are welcome.

- Spark (Newborn 3 year old) enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery (room 208). Stories this month are the Woman at the Well, a Storm, and the Centurion's Servant.
- Power Xpress (4 year old Grade 5) will participate in one combined classroom for the winter and
  experience Bible stories through interactive classes. In February we will learn about Mary of Bethany
  anointing Jesus and Journey to the Cross.
- We Believe: With All Boldness and Freedom (Grades 6-8) Room 209. Students are working through the New Testament to gain the overall picture of the life of Jesus and the early church. This month we will learn about Jesus' death, resurrection, and beyond.
- PresbyYouth (Grades 9-12 and college-age adults) are encouraged to either join an adult class or participate in the middle school class.

#### **Adults have a rich variety of learning opportunities.** They include:

- **Dr. John Lawlor** will conclude his popular Old Testament class on February 3. Looking at the ways that literary skill and theology work together in the Jewish scriptures, his class is called **"Literary Art? Yes! For Literary Art's Sake? No!"** In Room 206 on February 3.
- ◆ **Dr. Charlie Pinches** begins a weekly class in Room 210 on February 10. We'll call it "Highlights in the **Bible,"** for he describes it, "This study will catch selected highlights of the unfolding story of the Bible in sequence, beginning with Abraham and ending with the Apostles." The class is open to all who want to brush up on the Bible and keep their stories straight.
- Rev. Bill Carter will lead an Ash Wednesday class on "What Will You Take On for Lent?" in Room 206 for February 10. He will lead a brief conversation about the spiritual disciplines that can deepen our faith.
- Beginning on February 17, Rev. Bill will move down the hall to the Narthex to lead a small group class called "Practicing the Presence of God." The group will explore poetry, meditative prayer, guided imagery, and reflective listening to music as ways to welcome the presence of God in our lives.
- ◆ Also beginning on February 17, **Char Lyon** and **Tyler Kusma** will lead a six week study of the **Parables of Jesus**, based on the video teaching of Ken Bailey. This class will meet in Room 206 until March 24.



# **Wednesday Supper Reservations**

**Light Supper** is served before The Way classes from 5:00-6:10 for those with **reservations**. Suggested donation: \$3 per person.

Please return reservation slips no later than **Monday**.

Slips can be placed in the **basket near the phone in the kitchen** or in the **offering plate**.

You may also **call the church office** to make reservations.

Reservations slips can be found in the church office, in the kitchen, or in pews.



## **Chapel Choir Notes**

submitted by Kay Ten Eyck

"Love is patient, love is kind. Love is gentle, love divine. Love forgives, is never rude. Love rejoices in the truth." Roger Thornhill based on I Corinthians 13:4-7

For the February 14th worship service, the Chapel Choir will be singing an anthem based on I Corinthians 13. The refrain tells us to "Love one another, as God has also loved you." We look forward to sharing this message with the congregation.



We love wearing our red robes and would like to have new stoles to wear with our robes. We are researching to find our best option. One suggestion was to have a local person sew them instead of going through a robes company. Do you sew or know someone who sews? Please contact Kay or the church office if you think you could make new stoles for us.

## **Youth Fellowship**

This month, youth in

grades 4-12

are invited to join us on

Friday, February 19

from

6:30-8:30 p.m.

for

Church Family Feud.

## **Helpers Needed!**

The W.A.Y. is looking for people to help with our meals. You are welcome to help once in a while, once a month, or whenever you are able!

#### You can help by:

Cooking or helping to cook a main dish

Providing a salad Providing a dessert

Helping with setup Helping with cleanup

If you can contribute, please contact Jana Schillinger or any member of CE committee.





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January was a busy month with our snow birds already down south and several others away or unable to attend so we decided to cancel our meeting. That brings our next meeting to February 25th at Gwynne Gilbert's home. We will be discussing All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr. Does the world need yet another novel about WWII? It does when the novel is as inventive and beautiful as this one by Anthony Doerr. In fact, All the Light We Cannot See--while set mostly in Germany and France before and during the war--is not really a "war novel." Yes, there is fear and fighting and disappearance and death, but

the author's focus is on the interior lives of his two characters. Marie Laure is a blind, 14-year-old French girl who flees to the countryside when her father disappears from Nazi-occupied Paris. Werner is a gadget-obsessed German orphan whose skills admit him to a brutal branch of Hitler Youth. Never mind that their paths don't cross until very late in the novel, this is not a book you read for plot (although there is a wonderful, mysterious subplot about a stolen gem). This is a book you read for the beauty of Doerr's writing-- "Abyss in her gut, desert in her throat, Marie Laure takes one of the cans of food..."--and for the way he understands and cherishes the magical obsessions of childhood. Marie Laure and Werner are never quaint or twee. Instead they are powerful examples of the way average people in trying times must decide daily between morality and survival.



Stephen Ministry does more than help the care receivers get through a struggle they are having. It also enriches the lives of our Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers. At our meetings, we frequently share how the training has enabled us to handle everyday situations and reach out with love and caring to family and friends. Here is what one Stephen Minister from another congregation has to say about what being a Stephen Minister means to him.

## Ray | Physician

Stephen Ministry is a priority in my life. I use the tools in all kinds of situations—in my Stephen Ministry caring relationship and also in my interactions at home, at church, at work, and with neighbors. It becomes part of your lifestyle. I also credit Stephen Ministry with giving me the tools to be a better physician. I've learned to hear each patient's story and know the patient's heart. Instead of looking at office visits as one more thing to get through, I see each patient as a divine appointment God has provided for me that day.



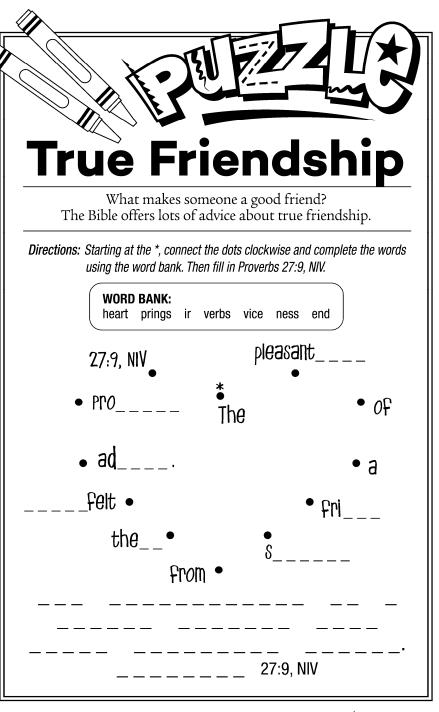
don't just send valentines: be a valentine! Create these Friendship Cards to express love through kind acts for vour loved ones — all month long.



- What you need:
  - 29 index cards
  - A small box or container
  - Colored pens or glitter pens
  - Stickers

# What you do:

- 1. On each card, write something nice you can do for other people. Ideas include "Give someone a hug," "Clean someone's room," "Read to someone" and so on. You can use colored pens to draw a picture.
- 2. Decorate the box or container. Place the cards inside.
- 3. Each day in February, select a card and do that nice thing for someone!



Answer: The pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.

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# **Joys and Sorrows**



Nicholas Garet Cochrane was born January 5, 2016, son of Sean Sr. and Heather Cochrane. Nicholas' grandparents are Dick and Marie Cochrane. Nicholas has 3 big brothers: Sean Jr., Michael, and Joseph. That's a busy household! Congratulations to all.

The baptism of Aileen Rose Taylor took place on January 3, 2016. Aileen was born on July 14, 2015. She is the daughter of Grant and Allyson Taylor and her grandparents are Robert and Karen Taylor. Congratulations and blessings to all!





The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Kate Hopkins and family on the passing of her sister, Ann Kennedy.

#### Office Volunteers

As coordinator for our "Office Volunteers", I want to personally thank all of them for their kind and dedicated work on a daily basis in the church office during these past years. As you can imagine, this is a wonderful way to express your love and commitment to your church in a simple and easy manner.

As our church ages, so do all of us. Past volunteers have departed for various and justifiable reasons, thus opening up days within the week where simple but important duties are untended and much needed.

I'm asking for additional volunteers who can give their church three hours (9 a.m. to 12 noon) on a regular basis, one day a week.

Additionally, an "on-call" listing will be created to assist when substitutes are needed.

Thank you for your consideration in assisting your church in this manner and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Cordially yours, Sandra Bailey 570-586-7551

# Lectionary Readings

# February 7: Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

February 14: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1 -2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

February 21: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

February 28: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

#### **FEBRUARY WELCOMERS:**

7 - John Conklin, Fred Campbell

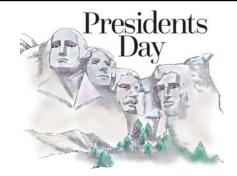
14 - Jay Clymer

21 – Barbara and Jack Pitman

28 - Myrna and John Diven

#### **USHER:**

Mary Parry





## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536 Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage Permit No. 30 PAID Clarks Summit PA

#### **DATED MATERIAL**

**Return Service Requested** 



Announcing this year's Janson Lecture . . .

Surveying the Land Between: The Role of Geology, Geography, History, Archeology, and Theology in Understanding the Land of the Bible and the Bible of the Land Saturday, March 5, 2016

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, PA

#### Our Leader: Dr. John Lawlor



Dr. John Lawlor has taught Biblical Theology since 1970 at several seminaries and universities, most recently Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. He has spent the last 45 years in the study of Old Testament and the compositional strategy that informs the content, shape, and meaning of the books of the Old Testament. In addition to his teaching, he was involved in Archaeological Research in the Middle East (Jordan) from 1967-2004.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the Holy Land from this wonderful scholar. This is our fifth annual Janson Lecture, a day set aside for the study of scripture. In honor of Joyce and the late Roy Janson, First Presbyterian Church offers this event as a gift to the community. All are welcome to attend.

To register, send an e-mail to <u>office@fpccs.orq</u> and pay the \$10 registration fee at the door. Or you can complete the registration form available at the church, with a \$10 registration fee (checks made out to First Presbyterian Church).

# February 2016

Monthly Planner

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday                                | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|----------|
|  | 12:00 PM Weight Watchers 7:00 PM Mission & Justice                             | 2<br>10:00 AM PW<br>Executive Board    | 3 10:00 Prayer & Share 5:00 Light Supper 5:30 Chapel 6:15 The W.A.Y. 7:15 Adult Choir 8:30 Bell Choir   | 8:30 AM Mens' Breakfast 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group 7:00 PM Building & Grounds 7:00 PM Christian Education       | 5   | 6        |
| 7 10:00 AM Mardi Gras Service 11:00 AM Potluck lunch 11:45 AM Annual Meeting Souper Bowl of Caring | 8 12:00 PM Weight Watchers 4:30 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Worship, Music & Arts | 9<br>10:00 AM MBK<br>Quilts            | 100 10:00 Prayer & Share 1:00 LP COM 5:00 Light Supper 5:30 Chapel 6:15 The W.A.Y. 7:15 Adult Choir 8:30 Bell Choir 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service | 11 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group   | 12 Presbyter Deadline   | 13       |
| 14 10:00 AM Worship Lent 1   | 15 12:00 PM Weight Watchers Church Office is closed. Presidents' Day           | 16 PW Circles: 10AM, 1:30PM & 7PM      | 17 10:00 Prayer & Share 5:00 Light Supper 5:30 Chapel 6:15 The W.A.Y. 7:15 Adult Choir 8:30 Bell Choir  | 18 8:30 AM Mens' Breakfast 5:00 PM Counseling Support Group 6:30 PM Fellowship  | 19<br>6:30 PM Youth<br>Group  | 20       |
| 21<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship<br>Lent 2  | 22<br>12:00 PM<br>Weight<br>Watchers   | 23 10:00 AM MBK Quilts 7:00 PM Deacons | 9:00 AM Presbyter  10:00 Prayer & Share 5:00 Light Supper 5:30 Chapel 6:15 The W.A.Y. 7:15 Adult Choir 8:30 Bell Choir                            | 5:00 PM<br>Counseling<br>Support Group<br>7:00 PM FPC<br>Book Group   | 26  | 27       |
| 28<br>10:00 AM<br>Worship<br>Lent 3  | 29<br>12:00 PM<br>Weight<br>Watchers   |  | Jan 2016 S M T W T  3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 21 24 25 26 27 28 31   | F     S     S     M       1     2     8     9     6     7       15     16     13     14       22     23     20     21 | Mar 2016  T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 29 30 31 |          |