

# The Tower

August 2024

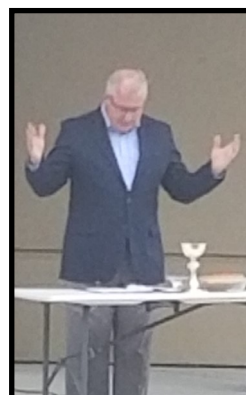
## Outdoor Worship

Join us for an outdoor worship service on August 18 at 10:00 am. There will be special music, games and activities for all ages when we gather together. Rootbeer floats will be provided after worship. Bring a lawn chair and a friend to join you. We'll meet in the parking lot on the west side of our property. Read First News for more details as we get closer to the date.



### First Presbyterian Church

340 South 5th Avenue  
Saint Cloud, MN 56301  
Telephone: 320-251-8277  
[www.fpcstcloud.org](http://www.fpcstcloud.org)



### Church Staff

REV. DARIN SEAMAN  
Pastor

BECKY STUDNISKI  
Administrative  
Assistant

JULLIAN EUTENEUER  
Music Director

BRAD JOHNSON  
Facilities Coordinator

PATTY SCOTT  
Custodian

ISAAC PENTZ  
Assistant Custodian

## Pastor's Reflections

This month I hand over the reflections to Rev. Beth Buckwalter-Miller. Beth serves as our Presbytery Executive. She recently posted about the tragic events that happened to former President Trump. The article is reprinted from the Valley Bridge (our presbytery's newsletter).

Grace and peace.




**Rev. Darin Seaman**

Dear Presbytery Family,

In the wake of the assassination attempt on former president, Donald Trump, I have found myself reflecting on the life of the Apostle Paul. I feel like he is speaking to us right now, giving us some guidance and direction for this time in our nation.

You probably remember what a violent man Saul of Tarsus (Paul's original name) really was. Oh, he was devoted to God, but out of that allegiance he felt it was the right thing to kill and imprison Christians, disrupt churches and create as much chaos as he could for the followers of Jesus Christ. He was on the road to Damascus with plans to throw Christians into jail there when he was blinded by a light from heaven and heard the voice of God asking, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Completely blind, he would be led to a home to rest a few days, and there Ananias, a Christian, would come and share the story of Christ with Saul. Saul would become a believer, changing his name to Paul, and becoming a church planter, an evangelist, and someone who loved Christ and the church and was fully devoted to both. As he put his faith in Christ his sight was restored. Known to us as the Apostle Paul, the letters he wrote to the churches he planted make up a large part of our New Testament.

In the book of Ephesians Paul shares a prayer for Christians. This man, who was blinded by the light so that he could not see with his own eyes for a time, prays that believers will learn to see with the eyes of their heart. Paul wants the eyes of our hearts to be enlightened, because, in a lesson Paul learned himself, only when we look with our hearts will we appreciate two things: the glorious inheritance we have from God in the gift of the saints (one another), and the power of God as evidenced in the resurrection of Christ. (Ephesians 1)

(cont on page 11)

### August Sermon Titles

#### August 4

"A Posture and Lifestyle"  
Mark 1:14-20

#### August 11

Worship 101  
"Movement 1 - Gathering  
and Praise"  
Psalm 95:1-5

#### August 18

"Movement 2 - Renewing  
Our Relationship"  
Micah 6:1-12

#### August 25

"Movement 3 - Drawn  
into God's Presence"  
Hebrews 10:1-25



## Preserving Our Heritage - Sanctuary Window Update

Our contractor has begun work on the outside protection of the sanctuary Windows. The six east windows should be completed this fall. Our goal is to raise sufficient funds to complete the remaining five west windows on the sanctuary next spring.

The total project is \$59,400 for the eleven windows. We have raised \$27,000 to date. This amount will cover five of the sanctuary windows. Thank you to all our members that have donated to this project. Our members continue to amaze me with their generosity. If you have not contributed to this project, please consider doing so this fall or early winter. Pictured below you will also see our contractor working on some tuckpointing.



## Finances

June Contributions	\$ 28,326.25
June Expenses	\$ 26,333.49
Monthly (over/under)	\$ 1,992.762
Year to Date (over/under)	\$ 34,509.12



Thank you for your generous donations. A word of caution, if we had all budgeted positions filled, working at budgeted hours, we would be close to break-even.

## Youth and Family

**Save the date!** September 8<sup>th</sup> is our Sunday School Kickoff! We'll have games & prizes and awesome food to eat. More details to come soon.



## September G.I.F.T. (Generations In Faith Together)

Join us as we kick off the 2024-25 G.I.F.T. Sunday season with a special **YOGA** session (by Laurel Leaf Yoga, Retreats, & Wellness), to center our minds and bodies, preparing us to listen to God with open heart and minds and have fun.

**Bring your family and/or friend! This is for ALL ages!**

**Sunday, September 15**  
**11:15 a.m. -12:15 p.m.**

Meet at the gym  
**Bring a mat** and extra mat if possible



## Our Graduates

**Brynn S:**

Brynn spent her summer in Poro, Portugal ministering among campus students. She returns this fall to begin her job search in St. Paul.

**Carrera W:**

This summer, Carrera is working at Voigt's Busing before attending MSU, Mankato in the fall. She will be majoring in Marketing and minoring in Psychology. She enjoys going on walks, reading, hanging out with friends, and taking trips whenever possible. This summer has been busy with working to save up for college, and taking any time possible to enjoy life before starting school again.

**Colton W:**

Colton graduated from SCSU with his degree in Community Psychology. He is currently working with vulnerable adults in a local group home. He will be moving to Minneapolis in the fall to live with his twin brother and cousin. He plans to take a year off to travel before graduate school.

**Jack R:**

Jack graduated from UMD with a degree in Business Management/Entrepreneurship. He will continue to live in Duluth for the next year, after which he plans to move to Minneapolis or the west coast and pursue a career in the music industry.

**Gavin O:**

Gavin is attending the University of MN Twin Cities in the fall and is looking forward to spending his last session at Clearwater Forest.

**Landry S.**

Landry spent his summer in Jakarta, Indonesia ministering among campus students. He is moving to Las Vegas this fall to begin a campus ministry at UNLV and work in that city.

**Preston O:**

Preston is working part-time as a server while seeking full-time employment in his major, AgBusiness. He plans to stay in the Twin Cities area.



**Mary Jost****Who's Who in the Pew?****Tell us about yourself.**

I was born in India, the 3<sup>rd</sup> child of 6, to British medical missionary parents, Paul and Margaret Brand. They became mainly interested in leprosy work and ended their careers at the leprosarium in Carville, Louisiana. So I was the product of 5 years home schooling, 4 years Indian boarding school, then British high school (also boarding) and finally Nursing school at LSU in New Orleans

where I met my husband, Jim. Quite a checker board of experiences to then move to St Cloud and stay put for over 40 years!

**How long have you been attending FPC? Before that, where have you attended?**

We joined FPC in '78 when we moved to St Cloud. My daughter Rachael was about 5 when she was swung out on a cable, over the manger, in one of Pastor Moe Steven's famous Christmas pageants! We transferred to Trinity Presbyterian when it started. And finally have returned to FPC recently.

**Share anything you wish about your family/children.**

My husband, Jim, was a general surgeon at St Cloud Hospital for 33 years, retiring in 2011. We have 4 children, Daniel, Rachael, Stephanie and Alexandra who all grew up here and who all live in Minnesota now. We have 2 grandkids in St Paul and 3 in Chaska.

**Where is the most interesting place you've been and why.**

I think the place still dearest to me is India. We have returned several times for visits and have kept several connections. The mountain towns where we schooled and vacationed still take up a lot of memory bank and I enjoy reminiscing with family about them.

**What is a Bible verse or verses that hold deep meaning for you?**

Isaiah 55 v 11 "So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."

I love that God sends His word, with a purpose, and it's not just up to us to handle it.



**What are favorite pastimes/hobbies of yours?**

I like to play tennis weekly and do jigsaw puzzles. I love to study God's word and have for many years now been a small group leader in Bible Study Fellowship. My grandkids don't need much 'babysitting' any more but I love to watch their school and sports events. We still manage to attend any gatherings that our 'kids' plan. Retirement is its own hobby with the challenges it brings but so far we are giving as good as we get!

**What are some small things that brighten your day?**

Starting during Covid I still Zoom twice a month with my 5 siblings, who live far and wide. That has been a great pleasure. We are making up for all those lost years of boarding school when we were young.

**Given the choice of anyone in the world past or present, whom would you enjoy as a dinner guest and why?**

Since retiring, Jim has become chief cook in this house, and a creative one he is too. So after 30 some years of the harried hours of a general surgeon and his family, this has been a joy. Right here, in our peaceful kitchen.

**Share anything unique or memorable you do/have done that others might not know about you.**

My Dad always said he wished one of us would write a book of Mum's memoirs. While he was still alive Jim and I made several trips to Seattle with a tape recorder and made 29 tapes of Mum and him telling the stories of their amazing lives. He passed in '03 but the book, 'Vision for God' got written by Jim and Mum, and published, with her stories verbatim. And I was 'editor-in-chief'. Wonderful 5 years of work!



## Deacons Corner

The Deacons do not have a meeting in July. Instead, we engage in a service project for people in our community. For many years, a meal was served at Place of Hope, but that ended with Covid. Two years ago, we supplied food for a meal at Anna Marie's Shelter, and last year we collected puzzle books (word finds, crosswords, etc.) for local nursing homes.

This year, we have connected with Veteran Resources and Enrichment Center to provide a meal for those they serve. At the end of each month, they hold a "birthday meal" to celebrate all who have birthdays in that month. We will be providing a meal of sloppy joes, beans, fruit, veggies, drinks, and a birthday cake for the 30-40 people they serve. Deacons will also help serve the meal.

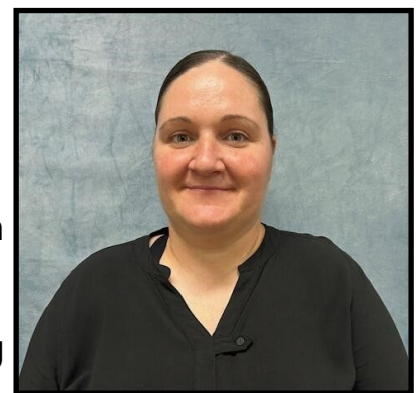
The Veterans Resource and Enrichment Center is located in St. Cloud and provides advocacy that will assist veterans to achieve a positive transition from military to civilian life. Find out more at their website: [www.vrecmn.com](http://www.vrecmn.com).

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### Welcome, Becky!

Becky Studniski was recently hired as our Administrative Assistant. Becky works M-Th part-time. Becky comes to us after having retired from the United States Air Force. She served from 1999 to 2019. Becky retired as the Group Training Manager while stationed in Mildenhall, England.

She previously served in places like the Republic of Korea, Robins Air Force base in Georgia and other installations in the United States. Please welcome, Becky, to our staff!





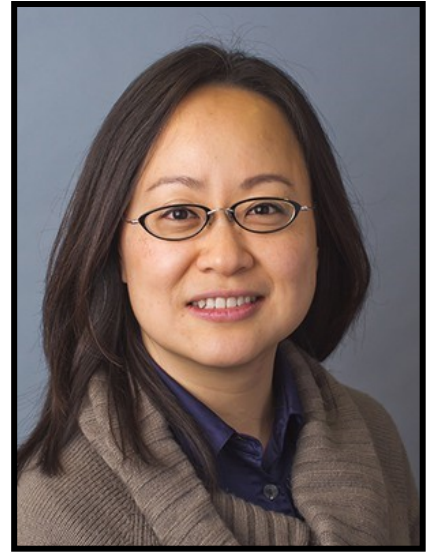
## General Assembly Update

Salt Lake City — The 226th General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) affirmed 420-2 the nomination of Jihyun Oh as stated clerk of the General Assembly, succeeding J. Herbert Nelson, who filled the seat for seven years and concluded his term in April 2023.

Oh, a 1.5 generation Korean American born in South Korea and raised in Kansas, is the first woman of color to serve in the highest ecclesial office of the PC(USA), Nelson being the first person of color to be stated clerk in the denomination's 236-year history.

Bronwen Boswell has served as interim stated clerk since Nelson's June 2023 departure. When Oh takes the reins on August 1, 2024, Boswell will return to her duties as the general presbyter and stated clerk for the Presbytery of Shenandoah, from which she was given leave.

The Stated Clerk Nominating Committee (SCNC), charged with bringing a nominee 300 days before GA, was elected by the 225th GA (2022). They interviewed nine candidates, according to SCNC chairperson Sallie Watson, a teaching elder from the Presbytery of Mission. Referring to the SCNC, Watson told the assembly, "These guys are rockstars!"



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## Sock and Underwear Drive

It is time again to collect new socks and underwear to donate to Promise Neighborhood for back to school. Each year, they have been so appreciative. Any size for both girls and boys are needed.

Please donate any Sunday in August (4, 11, 18, 25). We will collect them on August 26 to deliver them to Promise Neighborhood. For more information about Promise Neighborhood and their ministries check out: [pncentralmn.com](http://pncentralmn.com)

Mission Committee

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## Thank you!

Thank you for the many kind words, prayers and expressions of love during my recent hip surgery.

-Pastor Al Jergensen

## Service Group -August



### Chair-Jim Anderson

Lois	Buchin	Charlie	Pentz
Janis	Cimperman	Don and Bonnie	Ramsey
Joe and Stephanie	Jacobs	John and Patty	Scott
Carole	Lysher	John and Jean	Tulki
Tom and Tracy	Morse	Lonny	Wild

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

Date	Worship Leader	Ushers	Greeter
<b>August 4</b>	Bobbie Lampi	Dick Andzenge	John Bowden
<b>August 11</b>	Stephanie Merrell	Leroy & Paula Tift	Phil & Jeannie Chu
<b>August 18</b>	Tamara Calhoun	Lynn Rae Olson & Carrie Raiche	John Pike
<b>August 25</b>	John Bowden	Joe & Stephanie Jacobs	Alvin Yu & Michelle Chan
<b>Sept 1</b>	Dick Andzenge	Shauna Seaman/Lori Smith	Kari Ahles
<b>Sept 8</b>	Michelle Chan	Bert & Jan East	Randy/Kathy Arnold
<b>Sept 15</b>	Youth	Dan Owen/Mary Lease	Jan Larson
<b>Sept 22</b>	Rachel Buchin	Ryne Pentz/Duane Scherbing	Ken & Norine Schmitt
<b>Sept 29</b>	Nancy Horn	Mike Tollefson/Nancy Coleman	Don & Jan Watkins

As a reminder, if you are unable to serve on your particular Sunday, please switch with someone and notify the office staff of the change.

Tom Morse	08/01	Foster Atkinson	08/19
Carrie Raiche	08/01	Don Ondracek	08/20
Lorelei Schoenhard	08/01	Lisa Tenter	08/20
LaVay Sutterfield	08/02	Chelsea Pelzer	08/21
Romie Voit	08/03	Ariel Yu	08/22
Tom Addicott	08/04	Sean Donahue	08/23
David Sprague	08/06	Bryant Fritz	08/23
Paul Duinick	08/07	Bonnie Ramsey	08/23
Tracy Morse	08/07	Lynn Yueill	08/23
Dick Andzenge	08/08	Jean Peterson	08/24
Linda Baldwin	08/08	Jerry Sticha	08/24
Sara Rebeck	08/09	Carrera Walters	08/25
Stephanie Shaler	08/09	Michael Tollefson	08/26
Linda Bettison	08/14	Marilyn Benn	08/27
Marilyn Skaalerud	08/14	Mercedes Tenter	08/27
Sharon Gillem	08/16	Mark Giese	08/28
Colin Johnson	08/17	Gwen Saliars	08/31
Melinda Anderson	08/18		



(cont. from page 2)

We need that “heart vision” now. We have become such a polarized nation, spewing violence and discord. Often, we think our ugly rhetoric is something we are doing for God, just like Saul of Tarsus believed about his violent words and behavior. We forget to look at each other with our hearts. There are faithful Christian people in both political parties, and we have inherited from Christ this gift of one another. We got a glimpse of this truth in the interviews being conducted as people left the rally. We heard good-hearted people talk about what it was like to be present when the shots rang out, and we heard them express their love for their nation and concern for others with intelligence and kindness. We also saw those who might have different political views offering compassion and concern and thoughtful dialogue with a listening ear. It was a moment of peace and coming together. It was a moment of seeing with the eyes of our heart.

We disagree on a very long list of things, and if we just look at that list with the eyes in our head, we won’t appreciate each other or find a way to come together. We will only become increasingly polarized. But if we look at each other with the eyes of our heart we will find ourselves looking through a lens of grace and mercy, of love, of redemption and reconciliation. We will each remember that we are wrong as often as we are right, and acting with a little humility and care serves our nation and each other well. Our churches can serve as an example to the world of what it means to love and stay connected in respectful dialogue and caring community even when we have differences. We have strong convictions that deserve to be voiced, but respectfully and with care.

If we look with our “heart vision” now we will see the strength and power of the resurrection, as Paul discovered when his blindness forced him to see with his heart. Yes, life after death – hallelujah! The fireman who was killed at the rally lives on and his family will see him again! There is great hope in that truth. We will also discover resurrection life here and now where we feel all is lost. God brings life out of death! It will take working together with openness and faith in God, but we can find possibilities, hope, potential, and opportunity when we do. The Spirit is infinitely creative! Our Creator God delights in bringing hope to places where we have given up, restoration in places we consider to be ruins. That new life does not always take the form we imagined. Sometimes it is found in personal resilience and changes in our character that allow us to go forward with courage and faith when we had thought all was lost. We keep our eyes on Christ and go one step at a time.

This is a time to join hands across the divide, and to lean into that resurrection strength, so that we can step forward together. We won’t agree on everything. That’s ok if we hold hands and remember that the gifts God has given us for the challenges in life are the gift of one another and the gift of our Resurrected Savior with all the strength and power of Resurrection for our lives and world today.

Here are two resources I would highly recommend to every church to help us facilitate respectful dialogue not only in our congregations, but in our communities:

**Braver Angels** is a wonderful organization that I became familiar with in my last pastorate. Pastors in the Presbytery there were providing local leadership. I would recommend this resource to any church as a way of inviting respectful dialogue in your community. Learn more at [braverangels.org](http://braverangels.org).

**Respectful Conversations** is another strong organization, supported by the Minnesota Council of Churches where I am a member of the board. I have heard presentations from their leaders, and they too are skilled in inviting respectful dialogue in our churches and communities. Learn more at: [Respectful Conversations | Minnesota Council of Churches \(mnchurches.org\)](http://Respectful Conversations | Minnesota Council of Churches (mnchurches.org))

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Non-Profit Organization  
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56301

**Our Mission Statement**

*"Bringing the Living Hope of the Gospel to the World by Knowing and Serving Jesus Christ"*

**Our Vision Statement**

*"The Kingdom of God made known one sacred space at a time"*

**Office Hours**

**Monday - Thursday**  
**8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BIBLE STUDIES**

**Tuesday** 9:00 a.m.  
Men's Bible Study

**Wednesday** 9:15 a.m.  
Women's Bible Study

**Friday** 7:00 a.m.  
Men's Bible Study

**Friday** 5:30 p.m.  
Chinese Christian Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall  
(Bi-weekly) (September-May)

*You're invited to join a study that works for you!*

**AUGUST 2024**

**SESSION**

Pastor Darin Seaman, Moderator  
Bobbie Lampi, Clerk

Class of 2024: Joni Karl (Fellowship), Kim Tollefson (Personnel), Alvin Yu, Stephanie Randolph (Youth/Family)

Class of 2025: Rhonda Siltman (Mission), Randy Hammond (Property), Lynn Rae Olson (Campus), Mark Scholer (Worship & Evangelism)

Class of 2026: Tom Horn (Finance), Marsha Elg (Worship), Bob Butter (Worship), Norine Schmitt (Personnel)

**DEACONS**

Class of 2024: Gary Lenzmeier, Stephanie Merrell, Randy Arnold, Kathy Arnold, Carol Dirks

Class of 2025: Kari Ahles, Margaret Brooks, Karen Larson, Julia Owen, Duane Scherbing

Class of 2026: Michael Rutter, Gail Aalderks, Audrey Taatjes, Paula Tift, Mary Lease