

# The Tower

March 2024

## Holy Week at FPC

### Palm Sunday (March 24 - 10:00 am)

We will celebrate and remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem during worship. We will also collect the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Palm Sunday and Easter.

### Maundy Thursday (March 28 - 7:00 pm)

Join us as we commune together and observe a Service of Tenebrae. The service reminds us of Jesus eating with his disciples and his last moments at Calvary.

### Good Friday (March 29 - online worship only)

Pastor Darin and a cohort of Presbyterian pastors will provide you with a link to the Good Friday service and liturgy. You may find it on our website ([www.fpcstcloud.org](http://www.fpcstcloud.org)). The service will feature readings from the gospels and prayers that shape this day.

### Easter breakfast (March 31 - 8:30 am)

Join us in Fellowship Hall for an Easter breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon or sausage, and other wonderful items. Curbside To-Go options are also available.

### Easter (March 31 - 10:00 am)

Celebration worship begins at 10:00 am. We will celebrate the good news of our faith - that death has been overcome.

Invite someone to join you this Holy Week.



## 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

CAMILLE TEIGEN  
Administrative  
Assistant

JULLIAN EUTENEUER  
Music Director

BRAD JOHNSON  
Facilities Coordinator

PATTY SCOTT  
Custodian

Isaac Pentz  
Assistant Custodian

## Pastor's Reflections

At a recent Session meeting one of our topics was the use of our facility. Specifically, the question was asked, "Why do we allow outside groups to use our church building?" There were many reasons offered as to why we allow the church to be utilized. Some of them include:

We want to be good neighbors.

We want to help meet the needs of our community.

We want to reach out to our community.

We desire to make connections within our community.

We desire to "love our neighbor."

We then discussed how many groups use our facility. They include: Africa Women's Alliance, Catholic Charities, Faithful City Church, Granite City Folk Society, Interfaith Power and Light, Narcotic Anonymous, Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors and a host of piano recitals, receptions and special events throughout the year. Some of the groups use the property for parking only while others use the facility for classroom and fellowship space. A negotiated fee is part of the contract with most of the groups to help cover cleaning and use.

Some Session members were not aware of how much our building is used throughout the week and others were complimentary of the ministry beyond the church's offerings. I commend you for your outreach to our community. I also hope that you will welcome folk as they come through our doors and help to meet the needs of our community.

The grace and peace of Christ be with you.




**Rev. Darin Seaman**

### March Sermon Titles

#### March 3

"I am the Bread of Life"

John 6

Current Series: "the I Am Statements of Jesus"

#### March 10

"I am the True Vine"

John 15:1-17

#### March 17

"I am the Light of the World"

John 8:12-20

#### March 24-Palm Sunday

"The Royal March?"

Mark 11:1-11

#### March 31-Easter

"Resurrection Life"

Mark 16:1-8

## First Friday Concert - March 1

Join us Friday, March 1 as we welcome John McCutcheon. John McCutcheon has emerged as one of our most respected and loved folksingers. As an instrumentalist, he is a master of a dozen different traditional instruments, most notably the rare and beautiful hammer dulcimer. His songwriting has been hailed by critics and singers around the globe. His thirty recordings have garnered every imaginable honor including seven Grammy nominations. He has produced over twenty albums of other artists, from traditional fiddlers to contemporary singer-songwriters to educational and documentary works. His books and instructional materials have introduced budding players to the joys of their own musicality. His commitment to grassroots political organizations has put him on the front lines of many of the issues important to communities and workers.



Even before graduating summa cum laude from St. John's University, this Wisconsin native literally "headed for the hills," forgoing a college lecture hall for the classroom of the eastern Kentucky coal camps, union halls, country churches, and square dance halls. His apprenticeship to many of the legendary figures of Appalachian music imbedded a love of not only home-made music, but a sense of community and rootedness. The result is music...whether traditional or from his huge catalog of original songs...with a profound mark of place, family, and strength. It also created a storytelling style that has been compared to Will Rogers and Garrison Keillor. Tickets are \$25 online ([www.fpcstcloud.org](http://www.fpcstcloud.org)) and \$30 at the door. Student tickets are \$10.

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Payment/Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Flower type \_\_\_\_\_

Drop off at the office or place in the offering plate.

### Type and Cost

Easter Lily	- \$14.00
Daisy Mum	- \$18.50
Blue Hydrangea	- \$29.00
Pink Hydrangea	- \$29.00
White Hydrangea	- \$29.00
Begonia	- \$18.50
Tulips	- \$14.00
Calendiva	- \$18.50
Daisy Mums	- \$18.50

## Easter Flowers

Orders are being taken for Easter flowers to adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Please complete the order form (with payment). Forms are also located toward the back of the sanctuary. Orders will be taken until **March 4<sup>th</sup>**.

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

Get egg-cited for our EGG-stravaganza **Easter Egg Hunt!** Hop on over with your little bunnies, whether they're your children, grandchildren, or neighbors! Let's gather in the "Friends in Faith" area for a hoppin' good time. Don't forget to bring your own basket or bag to gather those egg-cellent treats!

**11:15 a.m. on Sunday, March 17th**

## With Much Gratitude

Thank you to all who participated in our **February G.I.F.T.** event!



## J.U.L.I.E.T

The next gathering of the Just Us Ladies informally eating together will be March 9th at 11:30 at Panera , 27th and Division. Order off the menu. All gals of all ages are welcome. Saturdays are designed for the working gal. We will mark the 112th Anniversary of Girl Scouts!. Wear green! Questions– jeodgers@gmail.com 320-496-0916

## We Appreciate You!



Thank you for supporting the Souper Bowl of Caring offering! We raised \$713.57. (KC Chiefs: \$306.84, SF 49ers: \$242.61, Commercials: \$164.12). The donation was sent to The SCSU Huskies Pantry!

# ***Breaking Bread Community Meal Update***

Why did Jesus encourage us to share a meal? It was a sign of the inclusivity of God's kingdom and he wanted to share his life and wisdom with others. Therefore, we encourage you to join us for our Wednesday evening meals or Potlucks. Fellowship at its finest! This year we are adding additional missions who will be receiving all donated monies. Please help support these causes. If you are interest in assisting with any of the meals, please contact Jeanne Duininck at 249-6778.

### 2024 Community Meals

March 20	Wednesday	Hotdish	Music Program
April 21	Sunday	Potluck	
May 15	Wednesday	Hamburger/Brats	Terebinth
June/July/August	No meal		
September 18	Wednesday	Fish Fry	LowerTown Project
October 16	Wednesday	Pasta Bar	Youth and Family
November 17	Sunday	Potluck	
December	No meal		

Wed. night meals will be from 5-6:30 pm/Potlucks will follow worship service

## **Who Is the Face of Hunger?**

Too many of our neighbors are one flat tire or medical bill away from an empty fridge. Parents skip meals so their kids can eat; seniors choose medications over food. Others work full-time yet can't stretch their paycheck to cover all their household expenses. The face of hunger looks like all of us.



March is Minnesota FoodShare Month. We can do our part by donating non-perishable food and self-care items to this month's Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. As in the past, tables will be set up in the Narthex where you can leave your donations. Examples of items needed are: soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, pasta, dry cereal, boxed dinners, dish soap, shampoo, paper towels, etc. Please be careful to check that expiration dates have not passed, as we do not donate food that may no longer be good. Also, please donate only new, never been opened items. If you prefer to make a donation of money, please mark on your check that the money is for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. Thank you for helping us feed our neighbors in central Minnesota.

- The Deacons



## ***Who's Who in the Pew?***

**Paula Tift**



### **Tell us about yourself**

I am the middle child (first girl) born to Paul and Maxine Williams in Austin, Minnesota. It has been said that my father 'jumped' out of his shoes when I was born as he was happy, he had a daughter after having two sons born ahead of me. I was named for him "Paul/Paula". I had a sister and brother born after me to comprise the family I grew up in. My father worked as a "meat packer" at Hormel in Austin and my mother was a homemaker most of my growing up years. My Dad suffered from an illness he caught during WW II and was off work much of the time. We scraped by mostly because of the great benefits Hormel's offered their employees at the time. Like many other Veterans who have experienced war firsthand, my father became an alcoholic which obviously impacted me personally as it did our whole family. I grew up Methodist, but we didn't attend regularly. We had Assembly of God and Baptist neighbors who were great at rounding up the neighborhood kids for Bible Camp and a weekly gathering "Joy Club" where we memorized Bible verses and earned pretty awards. My Mother was very religious/spiritual but she didn't drive and wasn't independent which was common for women at that time. Once I got to confirmation age, I did get dropped off at the door at our church more frequently. Once I earned my driver's license I could drive to church and even taught Sunday School in my senior year of High School. I married my first husband when I was 19 ½, we had three beautiful children, moved to St. Cloud in 1976, and he left the marriage in 1979. I met Leroy later and we married in 1982 and joined First Presbyterian Church.

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

Leroy and I have been attending First Pres since 1982. I joined the Catholic Church when I married my first husband—Leroy came from a Southern Assembly of God Church background—we were told that the Presbyterian Church was a good place to meet in the middle. It has been a wonderful place to worship as a family, we found cherished friends here, and have found interesting and worthy ways to serve others.

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

As I said before, our three eldest children call Leroy "stepdad". Amy was 9, Emily was 5, and Andy was 3 when Leroy and I were married. Our son, Christopher, was born in 1985. All our kids were raised attending First Pres. Now Amy is single and living in Washington. Emily (Richmond) has two children, Andy (Rice) has two, and Christopher (Minneapolis) has three.

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

The most interesting place I've been is here, right at home. Much to Leroy's dismay, I am not a great traveler. He loves to travel so we are doing more of it since retirement. We've seen a few wonderful places, but my favorite place is our home. I don't get homesick here.

***Who's Who in the Pew(continued)*****What is a Bible verse or verses that hold deep meaning for you?**

As a child, when I did attend Sunday School, we were encouraged to memorize the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23. I would say Psalm 23 has walked me through a few dark times and is the one passage I go to most frequently.

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

I have always liked to do hands on creative work. I used to draw incessantly as a kid. I learned to embroider, to sew, to crochet. I am not great at sitting still without doing something. Recently I've started painting with watercolors. I also occasionally do a little quilting. I like to plant a garden and I love that Leroy does most of the maintenance.

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

The warmth of sunshine, a call or text from a relative or friend, taking a short drive with Leroy out in the country to break up a day, a fountain diet coke...all these are small things that brighten my day!

**If you could have been a cast member on any TV show past or present, which one would you pick to be on, and why?**

No response...I don't watch a lot of TV.

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

I've admired Eleanor Roosevelt for many years. I would love to have a conversation with her.

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

I'm an open book so I don't know of anything unique or memorable that I have done that others might not know about. I did get a tattoo in Florida when I went to meet Leroy's Mom and sister after we got married. I am sure they were soooo impressed...not...and the tattoo is so small it's not even worth bragging about. Other than that, I am rather ordinary—right where I am most comfortable being.



## 2023 Easter Breakfast

Greetings First Presbyterian Church family and friends. I hope this finds you all well! The Fellowship Committee invites you to participate in this year's Easter Breakfast. Please mark your calendar to celebrate with family, friends or other special people dear to you. Each breakfast will include scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage, as well as your choice of muffin or croissant or hot crossed bun, and fresh fruit. Please consider joining in this Easter Breakfast on Sunday, March 31. There are multiple opportunities to participate this year : we will serve Easter Breakfast IN-PERSON BEFORE the 10:00 AM Worship Service ONLY, there will also be a Curbside TO-GO option available after 10:00 AM worship service. We are requesting a \$7 donation for each Easter Breakfast. All proceeds will benefit the District 742 Homeless Students Services. Please reserve your Easter Breakfast, by Friday, March, 22. Reservations can be made by turning in the form to the church office or offering plate. For more information, please contact Brenda Espelien at (320) 291-5084.

happy **Easter** 2024  
breakfast

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP Option

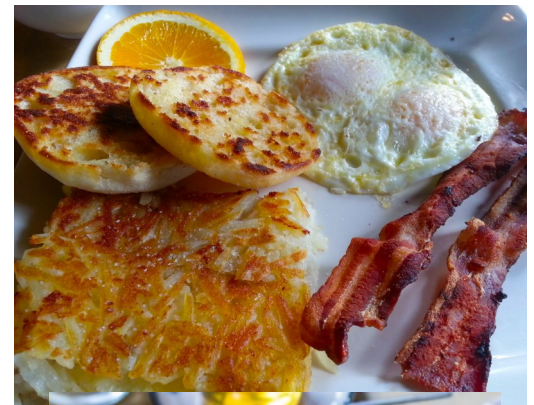
<b>In-Person</b>	<b>TO-GO</b>
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Muffin / Croissant / Hot Crossed Bun Choice

Banana Nut	Cinnamon Streusel
Blueberry	Croissant
Chocolate	Hot Crossed Bun

Fruit Choice

Apple	
Banana	
Clementine	







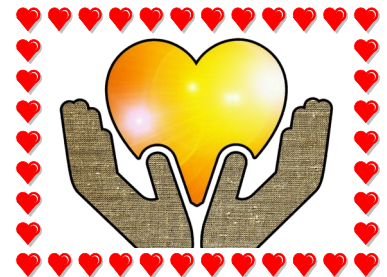
## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

### One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on March 24 and March 31. The offering supports efforts to combat hunger, provide assistance for disaster relief and works to provide sustainable community development. Please bring your coin banks and other offerings on those two Sundays. Let us rise to the challenge of supporting a great cause! Banks are available on the table at the back of sanctuary.

### Thank You!

Several years ago, the church started collecting plastic shopping bags. These bags were flattened, then cut into strips and finally crocheted into 3' x 6' mats for the homeless. Wendy Shaler herself did hundreds of these mats, and someone else here in St. Cloud and her group made about 175.



The ministry has completed because this was a COVID-related project. Please recycle your bags elsewhere now. I had a great time flattening the bags, separating them by color and boxing them up. Thank you very much for all the bags you have saved. It was a great project and I never have seen a mat discarded.

-- Darlene Scherbing

### Church Photo Directory



We are adding more people to our church directory. If we did not take your photo, the following dates will be available after worship services: March 10th, March 17th, March 24th. Photos are taken in the library.

Contact the church office (320) 251-8277 to set a date.



## Service Group 3-March

Chairs - John & Sharon Johnson/Dale & Vonnie Swanson

Linda Bettison  
Nancy Coleman  
Judith Hook  
Sandy Johnson  
Murphy & Jaquelyn LaVictorie

Leah Jacobs  
David Morreim  
Lynn Osteraas  
Jean Peterson

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
<b>March 3</b>	Nancy Horn	Gail Aalderks/Mike Rutter	Dick Andzenge
<b>March 10</b>	Ryne Pentz	John Bowden/John Detra	Linda Bettison
<b>March 17</b>	Jon Tufte	Ryne Pentz/John Hoffman	Alvin Yu/Michelle Chan
<b>March 24</b>	Rhonda Siltman	Dan Owen/Mike Tollefson	John Hoffman
<b>March 31</b>	Rachel Buchin	Jeanne Duininck/David Morreim	John Pike
<b>April 7</b>	Bobbie Lampi	Phil/Jeannie Chu	Shauna Seaman
<b>April 14</b>	Stephanie Merrell	John/Sharon Johnson	Ken/Norine Schmitt
<b>April 21</b>	Mary Jost	David Morreim/Duane Scherbing	Betty Payne
<b>April 28</b>	Dick Andzenge	Leroy/Paula Tift	Karen Larson

Kit Henkemeyer	03/03	John Hoffman	03/16
William Janssen	03/04	Gary Lenzmeier	03/16
Margaret Brooks	03/05	Sam Eggers	03/18
Tyler Pelzer	03/05	Beth Adamek	03/20
Janna Warren-Perry	03/07	Lois Buchin	03/20
Randy Arnold	03/08	Kari Ahles	03/23
Jeremy Grittner	03/08	Sean Hornibrook	03/23
Debbie Picha	03/09	Cathy Anderson	03/25
Randy Wickmann	03/09	Michelle Chan	03/25
Alan Espelien	03/10	Lynn Miller	03/25
Suzanne Merritt	03/10	Donna Radeke	03/25
Rodney Kadlec	03/11	Jackson Randolph	03/26
Tammy Brook	03/12	Steve Isaacson	03/28
Leah Jacobs	03/13	Pat Triplett	03/30
Lynne Osteraas	03/13	Linda Addicott	03/31
Lonny Wild	03/15	Robin Hasslen	03/31
		Carole Pike	03/31



## Finances

January Contributions	\$ 46,268
January Expenses	\$ 31,476
Monthly (over/under)	\$ 14,792



Thank you for your generous gifts in January. January's giving was higher than any month in 2023. Our members gifts of time, talents, and tithes are what make this church so special. Thank you!!

-Karen Ondracek, Treasurer

## Thank You!

Kudos to many servers this past week: those who served with the Feeding our Neighbors Ministry, those who served at the "Breaking Bread" meal last Wednesday, and those who serve on Sundays here at church.



"Thank you to everyone in my First Presbyterian Church family for the outpouring of love and support you have shown for me over the past months. As you all know, I have been struggling with some health issues and I know that your prayers are seeing me thru these difficult times. Thank you all for the cards, calls, and prayers. Blessings and thanks to all.



-Kim Melby Tollefson

**First Presbyterian Church**  
340 South 5th Avenue  
Saint Cloud, MN 56301  
Telephone: 320-251-8277  
e-mail: admasst@fpcstcloud.org  
web site: www.fpcstcloud.org

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
PERMIT NO. 311  
Saint Cloud, MN  
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"*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Office Hours**

**Monday - Thursday**  
**8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**MARCH 2024**

**SESSION**

Pastor Darin Seaman, Moderator  
Bobbie Lampi, Clerk

**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!*

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