

The Tower

June 2024



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

Style Show

Thank you to the servers, participants and host of volunteers who made the Style Show another successful ministry of the church. This year the apparel was provided by Macy's and the proceeds of the day went to Anna Marie's Alliance. A \$1,000 check was given to representatives from Anna Marie's. A special thanks to Brenda Espelien for leading the effort.



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

Recently the Chancel Choir ended their program year. I thanked them for their ministry and continue to thank everyone who participates in music ministry including but not limited to: Chancel Choir, Handbells, Ensembles, Lowertown and a host of individual members and friends who join in the praise of God.

Our denomination's Directory for Worship provides a good reminder about the nature of music in worship. *"The singing of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs is a vital and ancient form of prayer. Singing engages the whole person, and helps to unite the body of Christ in common worship. The congregation itself is the church's primary choir; the purpose of rehearsed choirs and other musicians is to lead and support the congregation in the singing of prayer. Special songs, anthems, and instrumental music may also serve to interpret the Word and enhance the congregation's prayer. . . Music in worship is always to be an offering to God, not merely an artistic display, source of entertainment, or cover for silence."* (1)

Our church is a bit unique in that we have a variety of music styles we support. We have traditional and even classical music that is played to more contemporary music you might find on a Christian radio station. We utilize a number of different musical instruments with the hope that it will assist you in your worship experience as you pray.

Even though I can't sing like some choir members or play an instrument for Lowertown, I am grateful for the ways that our musicians help us in our prayer journey. Please say a prayer of thanks to Jullian Euteneuer and the other musicians who graciously gift us their skills and abilities.

The grace and peace of Christ be with you.




Rev. Darin Seaman

June Sermon Titles

June 2

"Joshua's Installation"
Joshua 1
Current Series: Joshua

June 9

"Rahab's Help"
Joshua 2

June 16

"The Crossing of the Jordan"
Joshua 3

June 23

"Memorial Stones"
Joshua 4

June 30

"Rolled Away"
Joshua 5

Congratulations and Thank You!

We wish to congratulate and thank outgoing staff members, Camille Teigen and Dr. Marcelyn Smale.



Camille has served as our Administrative Assistant for the past nine months. Camille is going to stay at home to spend additional time with her family. If you have ever called the church office, you know how delightful Camille has been and we are going to miss her.



Dr. Marcelyn Smale has agreed to become the next Lead Organist at Salem Lutheran Church. She wants to return to the "strong liturgical focus of the Lutheran Church" and play a different organ at Salem. Marcelyn began serving here in January of 2018 playing twice per month. She has excellent musical skills and has served us faithfully over the years. She has served as a pianist for the choir and other ensembles. Her creativity in music was much appreciated here at FPC. In 2020, Marcelyn provided an organ concert during the time we were staying at home. Marcelyn's last Sunday will be June 2. We will honor her during the worship service and will miss her as well.

A big "thank you and well done" to our departing staff! Please congratulate both of them.

G.I.F.T. (Generations In Faith Together) Sunday

2023-24 Sunday School Concludes at G.I.F.T. Sunday

Thank you for attending the "Shine Your Light Banquet"!

We celebrated the milestones of our children and thanked God for the unique gifts and talents He has bestowed upon each of them. We deeply appreciate the congregation for your unwavering support of our youth. Thank you for your prayers for our youth!

A special thank you to our Sunday School teachers for your dedication and time in guiding our young disciples.

If you are interested in helping with the 2024-25 Sunday School, please let us know.



Clearwater Forest Summer Camp Fundraiser

Our youth are excited to attend the summer camp at Clearwater Forest!

Brat Sale

Jun 7 (Fri) & 8 (Sat)

11:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Cash Wise in Waite Park

Grab your lunch, dinner, or snack!
Help us send our youth to the beautiful Clearwater Forest Summer Camp!
Thank you to all those who signed up to help and to those who plan to
come dine with us!



Class of 2024:

Carerra Walters (Apollo High School), Gavin Owen (Foley High School), Preston Owen (U of MN), Jack Randolph (U of MN-Duluth), Brynn Seaman (Univ. of St. Thomas and Landry Seaman (Iowa State).

Upcoming reception for our graduates will be June 2nd in the Fellowship Hall after church.

Who's Who in the Pew?

Mike Rutter



Tell us about yourself:

I was born April 1st, 1959 to Elsie (Kosola) and Richard Rutter. My mother's parents were quite the gypsies – Elsie had been in 17 schools. My father studied engineering and also served in the Army. He was assigned to Intel during the Korean Conflict (the only one in his platoon that could type!)

We lived in two locations in Silica, MN. The first was a lake property with an extremely tiny trailer home for our residence, then later, closer toward Hibbing. My two older sisters Desiree and Charlene and I attended a one-room school house in the country until, for me, the 4th grade, we were bussed into town. Two younger brothers, Todd & Shaun, missed that opportunity.

My father had a logging business that included both pulp wood and pine / lumber. By age 17, I was fluent in chainsaw, skidder, & Peterbilt. We were one of the first in the nation to start "chipping" wood when chipboard was augmenting plywood as a building material. I graduated from Hibbing High School in 1977, in a class of 400+ students, and have maintained close friendships from those days. (Basketball pro Kevin McHale was a year ahead of me.)

With a busy business, participation at school was not encouraged, although I spent a year on the diving team and participated in school musicals. There was frequent work after school & summers due to the logging. Martial arts held my interest; training judo, then several karate styles before moving towards kung fu and tai chi later in life. It was not uncommon to stay after school for any activities, attend judo at 7:00 PM in the high school gym, then hitchhike home. Fortunately, I sold several friends on training with me – and managed rides with their parents or simply slept over at their homes. At 17, I purchased a somewhat reliable '64 MG Midget, and my love affair with sports cars began. A year later, it was a '74 Firebird that matched the bronze "Rockford Files" model!

How long have you attended FPC? Before that, where have you attended?

I became a member of FPC during Pastor Reiter's time. When young, church life was sporadic, although during grade school there was regular attendance plus summer bible school at the Presbyterian Church in Hibbing. Eldest sister Dee saw to it, once she had a driver's license and the keys to the Family Truckster (our big AMC wagon), that some of us made it to church! (I did not get confirmed until age 21 or so – at a Lutheran church! I also attended a Lutheran church while living in Phoenix during the mid-'80s.) I had latched onto some Taoist & Buddhist beliefs from martial arts (I read every book I could), and my father's religious interests ran toward everything from ESP to New Age. While that area had been an avenue of study for me as well, I turn toward Christianity as a "shiny, new car with a full warranty," rather than some cobbled together beliefs!

Share anything you wish about your family & children:

Gail Alderks, the most loving person I've ever met, and I have been married since 1988, a year after I moved to St. Cloud. I was married previously, and have a daughter, Christina, in White Bear Lake. She and her husband Jeremy have blessed us with two granddaughters, Jacquelyn (15) and Charlotte (13). Gail and I have two adult children. Erika, 33 (a 2 lb preemie!), has a degree in medical coding and enjoys roller derby. Ian, 29, works for Coordinated Business Systems as a field service tech, and enjoys gaming nights with friends

Where's the most interesting place you've been?

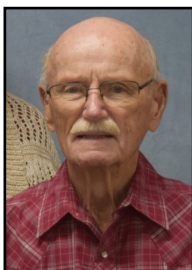
China! I did not attend college but worked as a sales & service rep in Minnesota, Michigan, and Arizona. Once I moved to St. Cloud, it was a variety of driving jobs, but I really focused on martial arts. (This is with thanks to Gail's steady work history!) Having been mentored by Ted Wong - Bruce Lee's last private student, I shared the art across China, making 3 trips from 2009-2011. Shanghai, Changsha, Guiyang, Beijing, Nanjing, hiking the Great Wall and the Yellow Mountains, where "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" was filmed. But my favorite was the small (1½ million) city of Loudi, where I spent two months during my first trip. It is, like St. Cloud, known for its granite quarries!

Favorite Bible verse:

Apart from the comforting words and promise of salvation through Jesus Christ, I would have to say that "If a Roman Centurion asks you to carry his pack for a mile, carry it two," (Matthew 5:41) has been my guiding philosophy throughout life. I always went into a job or task pretending that I was the business owner. This allows one to look past just basic duties.

Things that have brightened my day(s):

Movies, plus a good novel, especially Ian Fleming and John Grisham. I also write at times; fiction or a magazine article. Not being involved in sports, hunting, fishing, music, etc., gives one TIME to write! Since retiring Jan. 2022, Gail & I have done some domestic travel (Florida, Arizona, Utah), and I've made a few trips to Hudson, NY to help my sister and her husband Ben, who has cancer. In this past year, I've knocked two items off the "Bucket List;" snorkeling the Florida Keys, and driving the NY-LA Cannonball route (2866 miles) in my Miata roadster. Now a Deacon, I look forward to forming deeper friendships with the congregation, and enjoy helping with the NAPS program.



Thank you!

Thank you for all the well wishes and prayers during my stay in the hospital and rehab unit. -Bert East

NAPS Ministry (Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors)

On the second Monday of every month, several volunteers gather at First Presbyterian Church for NAPS. No, they don't take a nap, they help distribute food for the Nutritional Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS) through Second Harvest Heartland, which is the same organization that does the Feeding Area Children Together (FACT) distribution.



First Presbyterian Church started hosting the program in September of 2019, as a Mission Committee project. Karen Ondracek is the Site Coordinator for NAPS Distribution at First Presbyterian, and her husband Don Ondracek provides the muscle, along with current volunteers Mark Scholer and Connie Sandmann, Audrey Taatjes, Michael Rutter and Gail Aalderks.

On pick up day, food pick up hours are from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Shortly before this happens, the food boxes are delivered by a Second Harvest Heartland semi truck.

One thing unique to our First Presbyterian Church location, and greatly appreciated by the guests who use the program, is the drive-up feature. Recipients do not need to leave their car at all to receive their food. They drive up to the 5th Avenue entrance, where they see stacks of food boxes and friendly volunteers who load the food into the vehicle where the recipient specifies (front seat, back seat, hatch, etc).

Each food box contains about 45 pounds of non-perishables such as dry potatoes, rice, pasta, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned tuna, canned chicken, various sauces, and dry cereal. Also, recipients can choose if they want a two pound brick of Bongaard's cheese. In the summer, recipients are given ten \$5.00 coupons for use in August and September at area Farmer's Markets.

Many of the commodities are donated by companies such as Cargill and General Mills through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In a typical month, about 60-65 food boxes are given out at First Presbyterian Church.

There are age and income limits to qualify for NAPS. Recipients must be age 60 or older, and have a monthly gross income of \$1,632 or lower per person.

Anyone interested in being certified for the program can call Second Harvest Heartland at 1-800-362-0270. You need to call by month end to ensure you get a

(cont. from previous page)

box the next month. Karen Ondracek can also certify anyone interested in the program. Once qualified, the certification is good for 3 years. The recipient receives a NAPS card, which they present each month when they receive their food box.

A side benefit of this particular form of mission is being able to interact with the thankful recipients, those people in need that really appreciate the true benefits of such a program.

Sudanese Ministry

The South Sudanese Ministry met recently on Pentecost to celebrate worship together. The group is led by the Rev. Elizabeth Tot. Please remember them in your prayers as they serve this community.



Deacon Home Visits

Love
→ one ←
another

JOHN 15:12

Do you know someone in our congregation who needs a home visit or would like to be on our homebound list? Our Deacons visit regularly and we currently have openings. What do the Deacons do at a home visit? We visit, pray, connect and listen. We foster friendships and we hope to bring the light of Christ to the individual we are visiting. Often, the reverse is true. The light of Christ shines on through the people we are visiting! If

you know someone or would like a visit from a Deacon, please call the church office (320) 251-8277.

Service Group 6-June

Chairs-Ron & Karen Larson, Dan & Julia Owen



Kim & Cathy Anderson	Gary & Stephanie Lenzmeier/Merrell
Margaret Brooks	Mary McMullen
Rodney & Kelly Kadlec	Lynn Rae & Carrie Olson/Raiche
	Robert & Betty Payne

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

Date	Worship Leader	Ushers	Greeter
June 2	Randy Hammond	Linda Bettison/Duane Scherbing	Kari Ahles
June 9	Bob Butter	Mike Tollefson/Don Watkins	Dick Andzenge
June 16	Carol Brink	Ron & Karen Larson/Lori Smith	Randy & Kathy Arnold
June 23	Nancy Coleman	Lynn Rae Olson & Carrie Raiche	John Hoffman
June 30	Jon Tuft	John Bowden/Nancy Coleman	Jan Larson
July 7	Gene Williamson	Mike Rutter & Gail Aalderks	Linda Bettison
July 14	Nancy Horn	Phil & Jeannie Chu	Nancy Coleman
July 21	Rhonda Siltman	John & Sharon Johnson	Karen Larson
July 28	Ryne Pentz	Dan Owen/Shaula Seaman	Stephanie Randolph

Karen Ferkinhoff	06/01
Aver Andzenge	06/02
Tami Calhoun	06/02
Hayle Donaghue	06/02
Jessica Nikodym	06/02
Marilyn Williamson	06/02
Nolan Lund	06/03
Amanda Christensen	06/04
Alex Smith	06/05
Joseph Roberts	06/09
Vicki Baston	06/10
Bentley Neumann	06/11
Roni Janssen	06/12
Jeanne Duininck	06/15
Bryon Otremba	06/16
Jean Tulkki	06/17
Inez Hornibrook	06/18



Derek Nikodym	06/18
Linda Sarff	06/18
Norine Schmitt	06/18
Crystal Wood	06/18
Ryan Nikodym	06/19
Roger Minet	06/20
Gavin Owen	06/20
Daniel Trautman	06/20
Callie Justin	06/21
John Pike	06/21
Nadine Hounkpati	06/23
Landry Seaman	06/24
James Tingblad	06/26
Zakary Hutchison	06/29
Larry Moorhouse	06/29



Did You Know?

The flat, membrane roof on the education wing of our building was recently replaced. After reviewing a few bids, the Property Committee hired Buysse Roofing of St. Cloud to complete the project. The project took almost a week to complete. The next project on our list is to replace the protective coverings on the sanctuary windows.

Thank you for your generosity that helps to preserve our building.

Finances

April Contributions	\$ 34,947.00
April Expenses	\$ 26,794.59
Monthly (over/under)	\$ 8,152.41
Year to Date (over/under)	\$ 31,505.64



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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"

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

JUNE 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