

# The Tower

May 2024



## First Presbyterian Church

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

### Outdoor Concert (May 4)

Join us on Saturday, May 4 for an outdoor concert to be held in the church parking lot. LowerTown Project will be performing. Proceeds of the concert will benefit the local Boys and Girls Clubs. The gathering begins around 5:00 pm with the concert starting at 6:00 pm. The concert will conclude somewhere around 8:00 pm. The concert will move indoors if the weather is not agreeable.

Here's what you can do:

- invite others to join you
- bring a lawn chair
- patronize the local food trucks
- bring a blanket
- give thanks to God for

LowerTown

See you on Saturday, May 4!



### Back by popular demand ...

(May 18)



Hi friends! Remember dress-up days? Big floppy hats, your mom's high heels, bright lipstick?!? We can still relive those times. So pick out a lovely spring outfit, put on a dab of lipstick and mark your calendars to join us for our Spring Luncheon and Style Show benefitting Anna Marie's Alliance on Saturday, May 18. Watch for more information. Reservations will be available for both in-person and TO-GO options. Any questions, contact Brenda Espelien at (320) 291-5084.

Think Spring!

### 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 a few folk gathered in the library to clean it out. It has been several years since the library has been updated. The group decided to donate many books and streamline the number of books in our library. One item that was moved drew my interest.

The group placed an old typewriter on a table for you to see. What makes the typewriter special is that Lorraine Perkins' name is on it. Lorraine served as our church's librarian for decades sorting and reviewing books to be placed in the library. She used that typewriter for the card catalog she assembled. Even though we no longer use the typewriter or the card catalog, I am grateful for the witness. I'm told Lorraine was a faithful servant in this area of ministry.(1)

I can only imagine how many books Lorraine had to evaluate and sift through. Her role as Librarian reminded me of the work of discipleship. There are many ways we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. We can read, study and reflect on works that have been handed down to us and those recommended to us from others. A church library can be a good place to start.

I am thankful for the saints who have gone before us in this church and for the ministry that they accomplished. We do not stand apart from them. We serve with the saints who built this place, who helped it grow and we continue in their shadow of serving Jesus Christ.

I would ask that you say a prayer of thanks for the saints in your life who have helped you grow in your faith. The grace and peace of the risen Christ be with you.



*Darin*



**Rev. Darin Seaman**

### May Sermon Titles

#### May 5

"Christ Appears in Outsiders"  
Acts 10:44-48

#### May 12

"Praying for Unity"  
John 17:6-19

#### May 19-Pentecost

"Speak People"  
Acts 2:1-13

#### May 26-Trinity Sunday

"Nicodemus'  
Movement"  
John 3:1-17

(1) Lorraine entered the Church Triumphant back in 2015

## In Presbytery News:

### Jill Emery



Please welcome Jill Emery as our newest Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE). Jill was recently commissioned at our April presbytery meeting. Jill will serve as the CRE for the Winnebago church. Jill leaves a career of 30 years as a teacher and will serve God in our presbytery. Jill grew up in our church and served as an elder in the Foley church for years. Please keep Jill in your prayers.

### Rev. Dr. Sarah Hoogendorn



Please welcome Sarah Hoogendorn to our presbytery. Sarah serves as a Chaplain at the St. Cloud VA specializing in mental health care. Sarah was ordained in the Christian Reformed Church and holds degrees from Western Theological Seminary and Vanderbilt University. Sarah recently led worship at our church on April 21. Welcome, Sarah.

## “Breaking Bread” - Community Dinner

- **Wednesday, May 15th** (Hamburgers and Brats)
- Dinner is served from 5:00 pm-6:30 pm
- A sign-up poster is located in the Main Entrance at the church
- A free-will offering supports the Terebinth Refuge



## JULIET( May 18th)

The next gathering of JULIETS ( Just Us Ladies Informally Eating Together) is May 18th at 11:15. We meet at Panera at 27th and Division. Come for lunch or just coffee. All are welcome. The June gathering will be at Munsinger Gardens gift shop on June 29 at 10 am. A chance to be outside!





**G.I.F.T. (Generations In Faith Together) Sunday**  
 After worship on Sunday, May 19

**“Shine Your Light Banquet”**

A light lunch will be served. All ages and everyone welcome!



Join us for this special event marking the end of the Sunday school year! We'll honor and cherish the milestones achieved by each child. A wonderful opportunity to get to know our youth more and rejoice in their growth!

*The spirit of the “Shine Your Light” banquet is to be together: To celebrate the shining moments of our children’s year and bless each other and ask for God’s continued presence.*

**“Neighborhood Clean-Up” (April GIFT Sunday) !**

Thank you for sharing your love for the earth that God created and our community and modeling how to be good stewards at “Neighborhood Clean-Up” (April GIFT Sunday)!

**3 generations clean-up!**



## 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***

Join us in making a difference by indulging in some delicious brats and signing up to lend a hand at the stand. Keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet near the church entrance. Let's work together to send our youth to summer camp to learn more about God and foster their spirituality in an active Christian community!

**THANK YOU** for your purchase of Pattison Farm Gift Certificates, aiding our youth in attending the summer camp!!!

### Library Books

We have a selection of religious books tailored for children available in our library. Feel free to check them out at your convenience. Enjoy reading with your children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews! If you have any favorite titles you'd like to suggest, please don't hesitate to share them with any member of our Children, Youth, and Family committee!



## Young Disciples



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

We have been married 56 years. We moved to Sauk Rapids in September of 2023 from the Glenwood area. Dale is a retired Civil Engineer and Voni worked in various offices. We have parented 4 children and have 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grand.

**Dale & Voni Swanson****How long have you been attending FPC?**

Church is important to us so we went on the search after the move and found our "church home" here. We felt welcomed and included immediately.

**Where is the most interesting place you have been and why?**

We love traveling and that has taken us all over the world. We lived 2 years in Saudi Arabia where Dale worked for Bechtel Corp. We had young children then and we enjoyed the opportunity to show them history & geography from that part of the world.

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

Jeremiah 29:11 has been a favorite because we know God has the plan for our life and it is for our good. Our daughter, Rachel, has cancer that is terminal and the peace that comes from knowing she is in God's hands is like no other.

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

We have always enjoyed "hands on" so have remodeled several homes and finally, as we retired, built a home ourselves...marriage and bodies made it through the process!

Now after this move of much downsizing, there is more freedom to travel, read, volunteer, play cards, be with friends and family and enjoy each other.



**ATTN: Presbyterian Knitters and Crocheters**

The Deacon Prayer Shawl Ministry is in need of adult prayer shawls. There is a pattern available if you require one. A prayer shawl requires three skeins of yarn to be purchased. If you are unable to make a shawl, a donation of 3 skeins of yarn would also be appreciated. Please contact Paula Tift 320-237-3298 to indicate that you are interested in participating. Blessings to you and to those who receive the shawl in a time of need.



Thank you to all of those who have made the baby baptismal shawls. We have plenty of these on hand, so no need for more at this time.

Submitted by Paula Tift

**Did you know?**

Our church, through the Mission and Social Witness Committee, supports Terebinth Refuge. Terebinth is a Christ-centered shelter and safe home that brings hope, healing services, and freedom to sexually exploited and trafficked women. Terebinth's Hope and Healing Store crafts personal body care items using all natural ingredients. Women at the shelter gain work experience by working in the store, creating the products. You can find these products on their web site:

<https://www.terebinthrefuge.org/hopehealing-store>.

**Upcoming Graduates**

Congrats to the 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)

A reception will be held in their honor after church soon.



## **A Brief History of the First Presbyterian Church of Saint Cloud, Minnesota (1st in a series)**

The Deacons thought an article on the early years of the FPC would be informative, for members both old and new. What follows are a few of the people, facts, addresses, and details sourced mainly from the 1989 History by John J. Dominik, with gracious help from members such as Carole Pike and David Morreim plus many others, along with Dr. Campbell's own, "*A Retrospect.*"

It was Friday, Oct. 21, 1864 when the Reverend Elgy Vanhoorhis Campbell, along with his Mrs., wife Mary, arrived by stagecoach after dark. The city of St. Cloud had only been in existence for 8 years, having been formed by charter out of three separate villages. The Campbells arrived from Allegheny, Pennsylvania, eager to embrace the pioneer spirit of the opening west – Dakota, north & south, was still a territory. The Presbytery to be built in St. Cloud would be the only one existing between St. Paul and the Pacific coast. Luggage did not arrive until 6 weeks later!

After several days of lodging, they found suitable quarters in 2 upstairs rooms of a private home on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. They purchased a stove, teapot, one pan, and a few other items. A dry-goods box served as a table. In an age of cell phones, flat-screen TVs, and self-parking cars, it is hard to imagine the conditions they faced. By the time the Campbells furnished the 2<sup>nd</sup> room with a straw mattress bed and 3 wooden chairs, the family finances were down to a whole \$4.00.

In notes from his own memoir, Dr. Campbell describes how he and wife Mary played at hiding their own dwindling spirits, yet knew help was coming from Above. The very first Sunday services were held in a room rented on the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave S and First Street, which also served as a school house during the rest of the week. The original congregation consisted of 10 people – 8 women and 2 men.

The young couple had moved 4 times before a visiting dry goods merchant suggested buying the house currently rented. The man further interceded on their behalf, and the Aid Society coughed up \$300, funds set aside for a church bell. It's noted that the merchant stated something like: "They can listen to the Methodist's bell!" The pastor and wife eventually built six additional rooms onto the house, by themselves and with plenty of help from members of the now-growing church. Somehow, another \$500 was raised to secure a lot for a proper church, although the attitude of the town folk leaned heavily towards a school. This was during the Civil War, so funds (and presumably building supplies) were being pushed in that direction. The Ladies Aid Society helped with monthly payments!

A contracting firm, Clark & Dam, was happy to, surprisingly, accept final payment upon completion. With no funds left to hire a painter, Dr. Campbell painted both the inside & outside himself. This small plain church, called by some in the community as the "Presbyterian warehouse," was dedicated on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1865. (Glanville Smith, whose family were early members, described the Sunday School room as being, "outstanding for ugliness.") The church building was moved in the 1870s to Fifth Avenue.

In 1871, Reverend Campbell was finally installed as a proper pastor. However by the time the Civil War was over, his nerves and overall health were suffering, with his doctor recommending a change. He accepted a call to a church in Butler, Missouri, relying on his previous St. Cloud sermons and biding time in hopes of recovering both spirit and health. Campbell then happily returned to the church he had started in St. Cloud, and remained in service until 1922, an amazing period of 58 years!

More will follow in this series.

Submitted by Mike Rutter



## NAPS(Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors)



Hi First Presbyterian NAPS Volunteers,

I wanted to say thank you for all the hard work and care you put into running the NAPS distribution at St. Cloud! Your help is so appreciated and is making an impact and helping the seniors in our community. Thank you!

-Submitted by Marie Lattner, Site Coordinator

## Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who made the potluck a huge success. For those who provided food, served, cleaned and showed up to enjoy good fellowship. We had such great feedback and will do again in the future.

-The Fellowship Committee.

## Thank you!

Greetings, First Presbyterian Church family and friends. Thank you for supporting the Easter Breakfast! We are able to donate nearly \$200 to the youth in need. More than 60 breakfasts were prepared on Easter Sunday. It was so wonderful to see and visit with so many of you, and to work alongside so many of our young new members. Thank you again, and have a happy spring!

Brenda Espelien - Fellowship Committee



## Property Clean up

Thank you to the fine folk who helped spruce up our property on Saturday, April 20. You helped clean up the grounds and place new mulch on the soil.

## Neighborhood Cleanup

Thank you to everyone who helped with the GIFT Sunday clean up of the neighborhood on Sunday, April 21. You helped pick up trash and debris throughout our surrounding neighborhood.



### Service Group 5-May



Chairs-John Hoffman, Duane & Darlene Scherbing

Joan Anderson	Larry & Sandy Moorhouse
Kristin Brandt	Larry & Ruby Olson
Carol Dirks	John & Carole Pike
Mark & Mary Giese	Ken & Norine Schmitt
	Yao & Noelie Hounkpati

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

Date	Worship Leader	Ushers	Greeter
May 5	Linda Bettison	Mike Rutter & Gail Aalderks	John Bowden
May 12	Youth	Randy & Kathy Arnold	Joe & Stephanie Jacobs
May 19	Tamara Calhoun	John Detra/ John Hoffman	Stephanie Randolph
May 26	John Pike	Mary Lease/ Dick Andzenge	Lori Smith
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 Tufte	John Bowden/Nancy Coleman	Jan Larson



Samantha Conlon	05/05	Brynn Seaman	05/19
Joyce Buckley	05/06	Cathi Brockway	05/20
Jilleen Yogerst	05/07	Don Ramsey	05/20
Ali Roberts	05/08	Kadoon Andzenge	05/22
Wendy Shaler	05/08	John Eggers	05/24
Hannah Bavery	05/12	Kelsey Corrigan	05/25
Adam Giese	05/12	Pat Johnson	05/27
Eli Giese	05/12	John Johnson	05/28
Rachel Buchin	05/13	Jan Larson	05/29
Luci Hample	05/15	Randy Hammond	05/30
Shauna Seaman	05/15	Kristin Brandt	05/31
Michael Ewing	05/17	Don Watkins	05/31

## “Preserving our heritage”

When you walk into our sanctuary, what is the first thing everyone notices? Our stained-glass windows, of course -- the prominent Christ window, the Rose window, and the smaller windows on the sides of the sanctuary. All of these windows are a historic, religiously significant part of our church.

The outside weather protection for the sanctuary windows is deteriorating. One window has no protection remaining and the plexiglass on two additional windows is cracked. Without weather protection, our stained-glass windows are at risk of weather, cracking, etc. The Property Committee has a bid for removing the current plexiglass, stripping/sealing the framework and installing new glass: \$5,400 per window. There are 10 sanctuary windows plus the east narthex window – a total estimated cost of \$59,400 for the 11 windows.

Because of the historic – and spiritual – significance of the windows, we’ve identified this effort to improve protection as **“Preserving our heritage.”** We are requesting one-time donations this spring/summer so protection of all 11 windows can be completed in one, timely project, rather than two – or more -- phases as additional maintenance funds become available. Please prayerfully consider donating to this critical project of our church. A few members have expressed interest in possibly donating the cost of one window, but donations of any amount will be important and appreciated. Considering the significance of the windows, many may want to be a part of this effort.

Failure to preserve the integrity of the stained-glass windows has a longer-term financial impact. Repair or replacing just one of the stained-glass windows would cost considerably more than \$5,400.

Thank you,  
Tom Horn & Karen Ondracek



## Finances

March Contributions	\$ 37,054.00
March Expenses	\$ 33,742.12
Monthly (over/under)	\$ 3311.88
Year to Date (over/under)	\$ 23,353.23



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Saint Cloud, MN 56301  
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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"*

**Office Hours**

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

**MAY 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