

# The Tower

April 2024

## April Potluck (April 21)

This month we continue the Easter celebration with a potluck. Instead of our usual Wednesday meal, we are hosting a gathering after worship.

The potluck will take place on **Sunday, April 21 after worship** in the fellowship hall. Please consider bringing the following based on your last name:

A-H Desserts  
I-Q Main Dish  
R-Z Side Dish/Salad

Be sure to put your name on your dish. Invite someone to join you in this potluck celebration.



## 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

This month we continue the season of Easter. Yes, I said "season." The Rev. Joy Berger, Senior Editor at Reformed Worship, reflects on this season. She writes,

*"As I reflect on this common pattern of Lent / Holy Week / Easter Sunday / crash, I wonder if our liturgical practices are a bit backwards. After all the energy given to the Lenten journey and Holy Week, Easter bursts forth and then quickly burns out. For the early church, Lent was the time to prepare new believers for baptism on Easter, for their union with Christ in his death and resurrection. Easter wasn't the end of a cycle or journey, but the beginning of fifty days of celebration and ongoing discipleship for all believers, culminating in the celebration of Christ's Ascension.*

*I can't help wondering what it would look like for us to live more into that rhythm, to place more emphasis on Eastertide, the season of Easter. How might we focus on discipleship and development of Christian character to help our congregants practice Easter in their daily living?"*

She raises some good points. In most churches, including ours, Easter is the season that follows Lent. There is not much fanfare nor does the celebration continue for 50 days as it should. This Easter, I will be providing a sermon series discussing "Christ Appearances." We will look at the ways Christ appears after his resurrection. That alone is cause for celebration.

In this newsletter you will find other ways to celebrate Christ's presence here at First Presbyterian.

Come, celebrate with us! The grace and peace of the risen Christ be with you.



**Rev. Darin Seaman**

### April Sermon Titles

#### April 7

Current Series: "Christ Appearances"

"Christ's Appears in Community"

Acts 4:32-36

#### April 14

"Christ Appears Mysteriously"

Luke 24:13-48

#### April 21

"Christ Appears In Love"

1 John 3:16-24

#### April 28

"Christ Appears in Others"

Acts 8:26-40

## Spring Cleanup (April 20)



Join us on Saturday, April 20 for our spring clean-up on the grounds of the church. We will begin around 9:00 am. A light lunch will be served at noon.

## Feeding Our Neighbors



Thank you to the fine folk who helped distribute food at Hope Covenant on Saturday, March 23. Our church has partnered with Hope Covenant to provide food to those in need for a couple of years now. The group distributes food, offers prayers of hope and encouragement and offers hospitality to our community. Thank you to our members and friends of the Mission Committee.

## Church Photo Directory

If you have not yet had your directory photo taken, please contact the church office. Available dates are May 5th and May 26th. Thank you to Carrie Raiche and Lynn Rae Olson for helping us with the directory.





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

## “Neighborhood Clean Up!” After the potluck lunch on Sunday, April 21st

All ages and everyone welcome!

Clean-up equipment will be provided.

As Earth Day approaches on April 22nd, we are called to honor and cherish the magnificent gift of our planet, bestowed upon us by God. In celebration of this occasion, we invite you to join us in a neighborhood clean-up initiative.

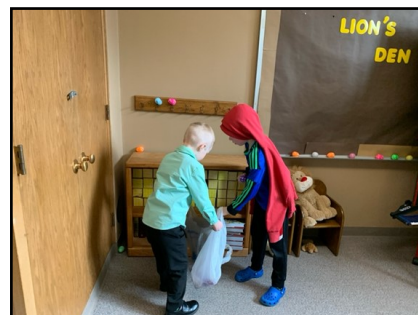
Inspired by the words of Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it," we recognize our responsibility to stewardship. Together, let us walk through our community, extending our care to the streets by picking up litter and restoring the beauty of our surroundings.

In this act of service, we not only demonstrate our gratitude for the Earth but also fulfill our duty as faithful stewards entrusted with its preservation. Join us as we come together to make a positive impact, reflecting God's love for creation.



# March G.I.F.T. ~Easter Egg Hunt~

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



## Pattison Farm Gift Certificates

The Children, Youth and Family Ministry (CYFM) committee and the families whose children are going to the camp will be selling Pattison Farm greenhouse certificates starting in April in the church entryway. Each purchase benefits our church youth in being able to attend Clearwater Forest Camp each summer. Special thanks to Dave Morreim for supporting this wonderful mission and to the congregation for supporting this fundraiser!

### DEACON'S CORNER

#### Deacon Card Ministry

One of the opportunities the Deacons take on to help members feel welcome and cared about is a card mailing effort. Just as a family member or close friend might consider sending a greeting card for a birthday, a new birth, or perhaps a sympathy note, the Deacons keep an eye on what is happening in the church family.

This is particularly true of those suffering. If someone in the church is going through a tough challenge, healing from an illness, or perhaps recovering from surgery, a Deacon will send an appropriate card. It is felt that a note of prayers and healing, Christian strength, or simply a "Thinking of you" message is the right thing to do. Many of the "Get Well" cards sent in this situation will contain a Biblical passage as well, and all are signed "From the Deacons of the First Presbyterian Church." It is also common for prayers to be offered for these individuals and their families at the close of the monthly Deacon meeting (usually the first Monday of each month).

Another opportunity to offer this mailed "fellowship," is to stay connected to those members that are house or nursing home bound. Birthdays are a good example, and the Deacons keep a list of those members so that a signed birthday card can be sent in a timely fashion.

Church Deacons who have helped fulfill this mailing-style mission in the past include Lynn Rae Olson, Karen Larson, Ronnie Janssen, Kari Ahles, and Betty Vigen. Between 2015 and the present, approximately 550 cards have been mailed out! A notebook is kept and passed along to the next person handling these duties. Going through this notebook, it is interesting to note the occasions. In addition to the reasons stated above, occasionally a card will go out with a note of congratulations, recognizing a move into a new home, or perhaps simply "Thank You" to a church member going above and beyond the normal call of fellowship by helping with a church function or event.

Although the Deacons, along with Pastor Darin, try to keep abreast of this opportunity, at times it's entirely possible an event which might warrant a card mailing is overlooked. If you happen to know of someone who could use a positive message of encouragement for healing or support, please let a Deacon know or contact one through Camille at the church office.



Submitted by Mike Rutter

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

I was born in St. Cloud the fourth of five children—the first boy. My parents were Paul and Patricia Hoffman. My dad was a district judge and my mom was a counselor at SCSU. I attended Campus Lab K-9 and Tech High School 10-12. After graduating from Tech I attended St John's University in Collegeville, MN. I left St John's with a degree in Social Work and a minor in Psychology—and yes, before you ask—I did actually graduate.



My first job at age 13 was as a newspaper carrier for the Star Tribune. I also worked at Stearns County Law Library and in college I put up billboards for the family business and sold Electrolux vacuums door to door. After college I went into the insurance industry where I spent four years before going on my own and starting Hoffman Insurance where I managed to carve out a 42 year career—ending in 2024. I thought as a kid I would play for the Vikings or Twins but my fallback dream of an insurance agent did work out for me.

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

I have attended First Presbyterian all of my life. I was baptized, confirmed and married in the church. All three of my children were baptized and confirmed at FPC, my daughter was married in the church and several of my grandchildren have been baptized here. I grew up nearby and its always been a very special place for me.

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

I married Paula Schellinger in 1981—my best friend's sister and he was not happy...but it turned out great for all. We were blessed with three children: Lindsey, Matthew and Kyle. Paula passed in 2006 after a two year illness. I have seven grandchildren ranging from 11 years to 7 months. Lindsey (Adam) have three children and reside in Maple Grove, Matt (Taisha) have two children and live in St. Cloud and Kyle (Brittany) have two children and live in Corcoran.

Cristy and I have been together since 2015 and live just outside of St. Cloud.

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

The most interesting places I have traveled are Ireland/London and Delaware. Our entire family went to visit Matt while he studied abroad in Cork, Ireland and spent time throughout Ireland and London. We had extended family in Delaware and it was always amazing to visit them on the beach.

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

I do not have a particular favorite Bible verse but have many passages that have spoken to me throughout my years.

**Who's Who in the Pew** (continued)**What are favorite pastimes/hobbies of yours?**

Cristina and I live on a lake so we spend many evenings boating, entertaining family and friends, kayaking and fishing. I am an avid Minnesota sports fan but especially the Vikings. You'll find me watching my teams including the Gophers, Twins, Timberwolves and Johnnies. Recently after retiring I have started to bike more, started to play pickleball, and go cross country skiing (not much this year, obviously!). I am trying to read more, relax a little bit and spend additional time with my family.

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

My day is brightened by waking up, talking to my children, morning coffee, newspaper, seeing friends and spending time with Cristy.

**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?**

If I was able to be a cast member of any show I would play Mark Harmon's character in NCIS. He is smart, witty and skilled—three things I wish I could be.

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

My dream dinner would be to bring my late wife, parents and sister back for dinner to get together with my siblings, kids and grandkids. I'd love to have my entire family together for the fun it would bring.

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

My birthdate is 3/16 and with my name being John I always thought I was getting a birthday shoutout from people holding up their signs saying John 3:16 during sporting events despite it being September-February and them not knowing who I was.





## First Friday Concert



Master guitarist, Mike Dowling, will play in our sanctuary Friday, April 5th.

Mike is "*a masterful guitarist, with flatpicking, fingerstyle and bottleneck all in his repertoire. . . . It swings, it's jazzy, it's bluesy, it jumps, strides and rags and it reaches right out and grabs you.*"--Bluegrass Unlimited

Mike grew up in central Wisconsin and early in his self-taught career he caught the ears of jazz violinist Joe Venuti, mandolinist Jethro Burns, and fiddle great Vassar Clements. He toured with Clements in the 70's and recorded with Burns and Venuti in Chicago, taking time off in between jobs to

move to California when he had the opportunity to study with the late, great George Barnes. Barnes had been "the" session guy for many years, recording with everyone from Big Bill Broonzy to Tony Bennett.

In 1994, after years of playing in various ensembles and a decade in Nashville playing sessions, fronting his own band, and writing songs for artists that included Del McCoury, Tim O'Brien, Kathy Mattea, and Emmylou Harris, Mike launched a solo performance career. Armed with an engaging voice, self-deprecating wit and an arsenal of elegant interpretations of old blues, swing, ragtime, and original tunes it didn't take long for Mike to capture the hearts of acoustic music fans and with the release of his first solo album, the critically acclaimed "Swamp Dog Blues", he began headlining at concerts and festivals throughout the world. In 1996, buoyed by his success as a soloist, he packed up his guitars and his fishing gear and moved from Nashville, Tennessee to a little mountain town in northwestern Wyoming.

Performer, composer, instructor, session artist, inventor. Everything guitarist Mike Dowling does reflects his love for and mastery of the instrument that has been the focus of his life for over sixty years.



## Outdoor Concert - Save the Date!

Mike Karl and LowerTown Project are hosting an outdoor concert on **Saturday, May 4** at 6 pm here at the church. There will be food, fun and fellowship for everyone. Bring a lawn chair to sit in and enjoy the concert. Invite someone to join you. Proceeds from the event benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota.



## JULIET (April 20)

(Just Us Ladies Informally Eating Together) will meet on April 20th at Panera on 20th and Division at 11:30 am. Order a scone or lunch or anything on the menu. All gals are welcome! Bring a friend. It is time to celebrate Earth Day! Thank you, Jane Odgers



### Service Group 4-April



Chairs-Gail Aalderks & Mike Rutter/Ken & Debbie Picha

Donna Amore	Tom & Nancy Horn
John & Phyllis Bowden	Jim & Mary Jost
Bob Butter	Richard Lawrence & Dorothy Paskvan
John Detra	Joline Molstad
Jane Odgers	

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Greeter</b>
<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
<b>May 5</b>	Linda Bettison	Mike Rutter & Gail Aalderks	John Bowden
<b>May 12</b>	Randy Hammond	Randy & Kathy Arnold	Joe & Stephanie Jacobs
<b>May 19</b>	Tamara Calhoun	John Detra/John Hoffman	Stephanie Randolph
<b>May 26</b>	John Pike	Mary Lease/ Dick Andzenge	Lori Smith

Debbie Grittner 04/01  
 Michael Rutter 04/01  
 Raynee Bretherton 04/02  
 Isabella Cabrera 04/02  
 Dan Lund 04/04  
 Cullen Donahue 04/05  
 Charlie Pentz 04/05  
 Jenna Jacobs 04/06  
 Barry Hample 04/10  
 Will Yu 04/10  
 Audrey Taatjes 04/11  
 Bailey Seaman 04/12  
 Susan Roberts 04/13



Aiden Handley 04/16  
 Lyn Varner 04/16  
 Kimm Anderson 04/18  
 Nadia Steyn 04/18  
 William Buchin 04/19  
 Ron Elg 04/21  
 Stella Kadlec 04/22  
 Connie Schultz 04/22  
 Jerry Stinson 04/24  
 April Lund 04/26  
 Darla Neumann 04/26  
 Mary Lou Martens 04/27  
 John Scott 04/30

## Finances

February Contributions	\$ 32,208.25
February Expenses	\$ 26,958.77
Monthly (over/under)	\$ 5,249.48
Year to Date (over/under)	\$ 20,041.35



## House/Holmgren Scholarships

The House/Holmgren Fund was set up to support young people who are active members of First Presbyterian Church, Saint Cloud, in obtaining their college education. Students are eligible for scholarship support for 4 years of post secondary education up to a Bachelors Degree. The forms are available in the church office and on the church website ([fpcstcloud.org](http://fpcstcloud.org)). Applications are due in the office by **April 15**.



## One Great Hour of Sharing

Thank you to everyone who donated to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Many of you brought your coin banks on Palm Sunday and Easter. While we don't know final totals yet, we are grateful for your support of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Self-Development of People ministries.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

**First Presbyterian Church**  
340 South 5th Avenue  
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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. - 4:30 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!*

**APRIL 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