

# The Tower

October 2024



## First Presbyterian Church

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

### First Friday Concert (Oct. 4)

Robin and Linda Williams are closing in on a five decade-long career that has included 24 personal recordings, thousands of concerts on three continents, a movie, and hundreds of performances on NPR's "A Prairie Home Companion" and other radio and



television shows. As live performers they are second to none and are at home on whatever stage they find themselves, be it a tiny coffee house or bar, or a large, storied concert hall or festival. As gifted songwriters, Robin and Linda have earned the respect of their musical peers, their songs having been recorded by such well-known artists as Mary Chapin Carpenter, Tom T. Hall, Tim and Mollie O'Brien, Mary Black, The Seldom Scene, and Emmylou Harris, to name a few. Join us on Friday, Oct. 4 at 7 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at [granitecityfolk.org](http://granitecityfolk.org) or at the door.

### Church Staff

REV. DARIN SEAMAN  
Pastor

BECKY STUDNISKI  
Administrative  
Assistant

JULLIAN EUTENEUER  
Music Director

BRAD JOHNSON  
Facilities Coordinator

PATTY SCOTT  
Custodian

### Breaking Bread Community Meal (Oct. 16)

Join us once again for another Wednesday Night Dinner. On the menu: soup. Watch for the signup in the main entrance. Serving begins at 5:00 pm. College students eat free. A freewill offering will be taken. Invite someone to join you as we gather for food and fellowship.

## Pastor's Reflections

I was asked recently why I don't preach on elections and those who are seeking elected office. I responded, "I try to preach the biblical text." Sometimes, the Bible leads us to hot-button issues and the challenges of our day. But, often when elections roll around, people seem to hear what they want to hear. My role is to preach the text and allow the Holy Spirit to foster a healthy spirituality in this place. At least that is the goal.

Isn't the Bible rife with politics? I agree that some biblical texts can be political just as the expression "Jesus is Lord" was in the first century. There are other texts that point to the relationship (or lack thereof) between the government and God's people. Often, the people were being oppressed by the government or religious authorities. Jesus had much to say about that and so should we.

As a rule, I have never endorsed candidates nor has the Session. We try to be good citizens of our country but endorsing someone seems to cross a line. I realize I may be in the minority here. Many churches now embrace candidates. I am also aware that most churches have Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike. I think Jesus transcends party affiliations. That is the major reason I don't preach about elections. I want to focus on Christ and his power at work in our lives and in the world.

As citizens, I believe God cares about our role in the electoral process. I believe God cares about the issues that come up during elections. We should care as well. We should strive to make our representatives accountable and work for a better democracy.

The grace and peace of Christ be with you.




**Rev. Darin Seaman**

### October Sermon Titles

#### Oct. 6

"Where the Children  
Are Blessed"

Mark 10:13-16

#### October 13

"You Lack One Thing"

Mark 10:17-31

#### October 20

"Jesus, Do This for Me"

Mark 10:35-45

#### October 27

"Let Me See Again"

Mark 10:46-52

**First Presbyterian Church—December 2024 Presents...**

*He Shall Reign  
Forevermore*  
A Christmas Worship Experience

*Join us for an amazing Crusade  
Ecumenical Christmas Cantata experience!*



**Jullian Euteneuer**

*Friday, December 13th at 7pm*

*Saturday, December 14th at 7pm*

*Sunday, December 15th at 2pm*

*First Presbyterian Church—340 5th Ave South, St. Cloud MN*

## **Respectful Conversations**

Respectful Conversations are structured, facilitated conversations designed not to change minds, but soften hearts. Congregations, educational institutions and community groups throughout Minnesota have chosen to be sources of living water, cooling the heat of intense disagreements in their communities through the Respectful Conversations Project. Since 2012, more than 3,000 Minnesotans have participated in over 100 Respectful Conversations on a variety of divisive topics, including:

- The amendment defining marriage
- Community policing
- "Race" relations
- Being in community together after the divisive election
- Local impact of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians
- Guns in Minnesota
- Differences between urban and rural politicians' concerns
- Internal concerns like budget management they felt listened to

We also are regularly in partnership with current or new host congregations in regard to designing custom conversations tailored for topics of local relevance. To have a discussion about this option, contact Program Director Rev. Jerad Morey, 612- 230-3211. The next Respectful Conversations is at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 6:00 pm. The topic: "A Respectful Conversation about this Election."





## Sunday School

**October Sunday School Dates: 6th, 13, and 27th**  
 Please meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9am.  
 No Sunday School on October 20th.



**November Sunday School dates: 3rd, 10th, 24th**  
**G.I.F.T. (Generations in Faith Together - for ALL ages) will be held November 17th - following worship in Fellowship Hall.**

**December Sunday School dates: 8th and 22nd** at 9am. There will be no Sunday School on the 15th due to the Crusade Choir concert and also not on the holiday weekend of December 29th.

Please join us as often as you can - your teachers have awesome lessons planned! A special thanks to our teachers for this school year. If you would like to be a teacher fill-in for a Sunday or two, we could use you! See one of the Children, Youth and Family committee members to volunteer.

## Confirmation

Confirmation students (Ariel, Lauren, Mnena, Nathan, Sara) and their families recently enjoyed a hike and swimming at St. John's University. As they begin their second year of this faith journey, please keep them and their teachers in your prayers.



## Faithful Friends' Corner at East Narthex

We received a \$1,000 Wonder of Worship grant from Columbia Theological Seminary to help us innovate ministry for children and worship. "Faithful Friends' Corner" is a welcoming space for children and their families, recognizing their importance in the congregation. It allows children to move around, accommodating their developmental needs and encouraging participation. Toys, activities, and books are available to enjoy in the space or bring to the pews. Please let families with children know about this space or consider donating a book or toy to welcome them!

*~"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14 (NIV)*



## G.I.F.T. Sunday (Generations in Faith Together)

Thank you for participating!

We centered our body and mind to be fully present.





## Who's Who in the Pew

One of the first things my husband, John, and I did when we moved to St. Cloud was join First Presbyterian Church. I have served as deacon and elder and have participated in many committees. I also served a term on Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys Council. I sang in Chancel Choir, rang in the bell choir and directed Carol Choir and Young Ringers. After years of Bible study, I have encountered many beautiful and inspiring Bible verses. It would be hard to choose a favorite, but as a gardener I'm drawn to Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. "For everything there is a season." It speaks to the rhythm of life, beginnings and endings.

While John was in dental school, I taught fifth grade in the Mounds View School District until the birth of our first child. I then became mom, a homemaker and a volunteer. Later I earned a degree in mass communications and became a journalist and a University of Minnesota Master Gardener. I wrote gardening features for the St. Cloud Times for 5 years. My works also appeared in periodicals. I edited the "Tower" and the Presbytery newsletter, "The Valley Bridge," back in the day when it was printed and mailed.

John and I met at Grinnell College the first week of freshman orientation and were married the week after I graduated from Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. After our wedding in Illinois, we moved to Minnesota where John was in dental school. We have been married 68 years. We have four daughters JoBeth, Julie, Janet and Jennie who were known as the "Pike Girls," followed by four adult grandsons and five great granddaughters ranging in age from 8 to 16 years. Our youngest daughter died during the pandemic. She was a cute and fun person, and her loss has left a void in our family. We planted an evergreen tree near the new church entrance in her memory. It has been a joy to watch our daughters become parents and then our grandsons also have children. It is always strange when I hear someone call "Grandma" and they are talking to one of our daughters.

Carole Pike



We have been very fortunate to have traveled to many interesting places. We golfed in Scotland and skied in Colorado. We biked in England, France, Germany and Austria. Enjoying the sights, smells and sounds while biking enhanced our enjoyment of the foreign country sides.

I was able to be a part of some memorable events in the life of the church. In the early 1970s when the Sunday school was much larger, I wrote and directed a Christmas pageant that became a meaningful part of many holiday celebrations. All the music was live. Students sang and recited poetry that told the story of Christ's birth. A little angel appeared to fly over the scene and a brass ensemble of junior and senior high school students played as the camels processed with the kings. This was the debut of the camels who still appear in our Christmas programs.

In 1989 David Morreim and I co-chaired the 125th anniversary of the church, the quasiquicentennial. David was in charge of a historical display while I wrote another pageant which was presented at a banquet in Atwood Center. All of our living former pastors attended. It was a grand celebration.

As for pastimes, gone are the days when I skied, biked and golfed. My gardening now consists of a few pots on the patio. I knit caps for those in need and am working on a prayer shawl. I belong to a group of musicians that meet once a month to perform for each other, so I practice the piano almost every day. John and I go for walks and do yoga twice a week.

Worshiping in this church has been a big part of my life. Now in my twilight years I enjoy sitting in the third pew watching a new generation grow from toddlers to teens to adults. It is also good to see new members and younger people taking leadership positions. I am grateful that I can still contribute to the worship service praising the Lord with piano selections. Life is good.



## DEACONS CORNER

### Hunger in Minnesota

There are approximately 537,890 people in Minnesota facing hunger. 183,480 of them children, according to [www.feedingamerica.com](http://www.feedingamerica.com). It is estimated that 40% of people experiencing hunger are not eligible for federal food assistance benefits. No one can reach their full potential when they are hungry. How can we help? We can do our part by donating non-perishable food and self-care items to this month's **Mother Hubbard's Cupboard**. Donations can be dropped off in the church in the hallway near the Church offices. 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



### FPC Member Update: Erna Rohs

In December 2017, Erna Rohs was featured in the *Tower* article "Who's Who in the Pew." We learned that Erna was born in Renville, MN to Carl York and Margaret Aalderks York (yes, Erna and Gail are related). After graduating from high school and attending Minnesota Schools for post secondary education, she worked for an optician in Montevideo, MN, for 20 years. She met her husband, Eldon, in Montevideo and they were married for 54 years. Eldon was in the Air Force, and during WWII was shot down over Germany and was a POW for 18 months. He passed away in 2000.



Erna has two children, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Erna moved to St. Cloud in 1973 and began attending First Pres. You may remember that Erna served our church as a greeter and lay liturgist. Several years ago, she moved closer to family in Northfield, MN, to the Benedictine Living Community.

On her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, Erna had her first motorcycle ride with Roni Janssen! She said "I thoroughly enjoyed the ride amidst the beautiful fall weather." Erna will celebrate her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 16, 2024. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Erna received an outpouring of birthday cards and wishes from her First Presbyterian family?! Her address is Erna Rohs, Benedictine Living Community, 2030 North Avenue, Northfield, MN 55057.



## Annual Fall Bake - Soup - Craft Sale

This is a reminder to all who are generous with their time and talent that the 2024 sale will be held the weekend before Thanksgiving.

November 22 – Friday

November 23 – Saturday

November 24 – Sunday

If you would like to participate, the time to plan is now. We will have more details to provide to you in the November Tower. Often, we have more demand for soup than what we can supply for buyers. If making soup is your forte, please consider a contribution to the sale. Part of last year's proceeds paid for wall repair and paint job around the newly refurbished Rose Window. Crafters and bakers keep these November dates in mind.

- Bake Sale Committee



## Thank you!

From the family of Sara Swendsen - Thank you for your care and concern for my mother who considered this her church home. Many thanks to the First Presbyterian Community, you are a beautiful group of people!

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Nutter family. Henry Mark Nutter was baptized on September 22nd. Pictured at right: Henry, Cody (dad), Paige (mother) and Audrey.





**Service Group – October**

**Chairs - Shauna Seaman,**  
 Randy and Kathy Arnold  
 Bill and Roni Janssen  
 Laura McLaughlin  
 Pat Naysmith

**Don and Jan Watkins**  
 Heidi Ness  
 Tomoko Rebeck  
 Norm Seehusen  
 Elizabeth Tot

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
6 Oct	Ryne Pentz	Gail Aalderks/Mike Rutter	Linda Bettison
13 Oct	John Pike	Randy/Kathy Arnold	John Bowden
20 Oct	Nancy Horn	Phil/Jeanne Chu	Bert & Jan East
27 Oct	Rhonda Siltman	Shauna/Bailey Seaman	Karen Larson
3 Nov	Sara Rebeck	John Bowden/John Pike	Carol Brink
10 Nov	Bob Butter	Leroy/Paula Tift	Youth
17 Nov	Mary Jost	Joe/Stephanie Jacobs/David Morreim	John Hoffman
24 Nov	Stephanie Merrell	Linda Bettison/Jeanne Duininck	Betty Payne

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.

Joan Kosel	10/01
Joan Anderson	10/02
Tom Horn	10/02
Janis Cimperman	10/05
Mike Karl	10/05
Verlyn Owen	10/05
Keli Trautman	10/05
Patrick Coss	10/06
PJ Espelien	10/08
Kathy Arnold	10/10
Jerry Hayenga	10/10
Barbara Hebert	10/11
Nancy Coleman	10/14
Zoey Kenning	10/16
Julia Owen	10/16



Erna Rohs	10/16
William Yueill	10/19
Leanne Becker	10/20
Thomas Eggers	10/20
Preston Owen	10/20
Matthew Nikodym	10/22
Bob Butter	10/24
Stacy Stocker	10/24
Zayda Ewing	10/26
Rickie Espelien	10/27
Joel Hasslen	10/27
Marsha Elg	10/28
Terry (Teryl) Tenter	10/28
Heidi Ness	10/30

## Covenant Sunday

Thank you for providing ministry to so many in our community this year. You helped us provide opportunities for people in need, connections for people and pointed to new life in Christ throughout the year. We are grateful to you for your gifts of ministry.

This year our Stewardship Campaign will begin on Sunday, November 3, 2024. It will end on Covenant Sunday, November 17, 2024. On Covenant Sunday we will have a church Potluck after the worship service. More on that later.

This year’s theme: **“Let Go and Let God.”** Our guiding text is: “Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.” Ephesians 3:20

As we begin our Stewardship Campaign, please prayerfully consider increasing your pledge as our costs have continued to increase. You will begin receiving the campaign materials in mid-October.

We are grateful for all your generosity and commitment to our church. Together we continue supporting our community of faith and the community around us.

Tom Horn and Karen Ondracek, Co-chairs of Stewardship.

### Finances



August Contributions	\$30,130.50
August Expenses	\$26,764.05
Monthly (over/under)	\$3,366.45
Year to Date (over/under)	\$47,163.65

### Name Tags

Names tags are now available for those who wish to wear one. Look for one located in the pew directly in front of you. It is an attempt to make connections within our community.





**First Presbyterian Church**  
340 South 5th Avenue  
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web site: www.fpcstcloud.org

Non-Profit Organization  
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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. - 3:00 p.m.**

**OCTOBER 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