

The Tower

February 2024

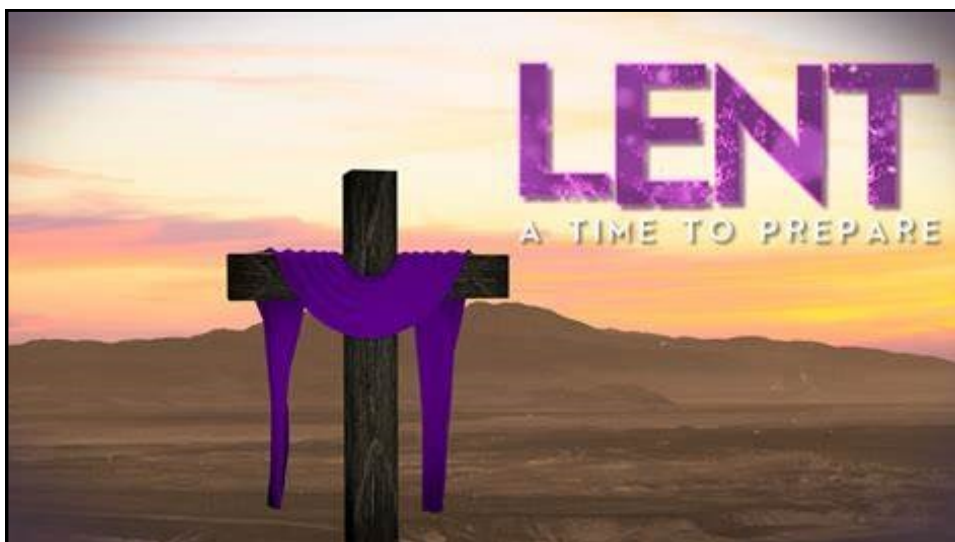
Lent

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith, it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.

At the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families and even our lives do not last forever.

We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) with a worship service at 7 pm in the sanctuary. The service will include communion and the imposition of ashes.



First Presbyterian Church

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Church Staff

REV. DARIN SEAMAN
Pastor

CAMILLE TEIGEN
Administrative Assistant

JULLIAN EUTENEUER
Music Director

BRAD JOHNSON
Facilities Coordinator

PATTY SCOTT
Custodian

Pastor's Reflections

Most of us have heard of Lent but sometimes I wonder if we know what it means. Traditionally, Lent is observed as "the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter." The term "Lent" comes from the Old English word *lengten*, "to lengthen." It was originally a time to prepare candidates for baptism and became a period of penitence for those who have been baptized.

Some churches have traditions that date back centuries, fasting on certain days and refraining from something they may love or cherish a bit too much. Other churches don't even celebrate Lent. We are somewhere in the middle.

While some Protestants still struggle with what to make of Lent ("Isn't that a Catholic thing?"), increasingly Presbyterian congregations are seeking creative approaches for making the season meaningful – including giving people opportunities to explore spiritual practices and to bring depth and a sense of community to the weeks leading to Easter.

This year we will do some of the familiar things we ordinarily practice such as collecting money for the One Great Hour of Sharing, celebrating Ash Wednesday (2.14) and Maundy Thursday (3.28). I will begin a new sermon series, along with a few other Presbyterian pastors, covering the "I am" statements of Jesus in the gospel of John.

Whatever we choose to do as a congregation, or as individuals in the body of Christ, my hope is that it helps us celebrate the resurrection in a way that honors Jesus and draws us closer to him.

What practices help you in the journey during Lent? What do you remember about previous Lenten practices? How has the tradition helped you in your observance of Lent? I hope these and other questions bring us closer to each other and ultimately to Christ.

The grace and peace of Christ be with you.



Rev. Darin Seaman

February Sermon Titles

Feb. 4

"Healing and Restoration"
Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 11

"Leprosy Questions"
Mark 1:40-45

Feb. 18

First Sunday in Lent

"I am the Good Shepherd"
John 10:11-21

Feb. 25

Second Sunday in Lent

"I am the Way, Truth and Life"
John 14:1-14

Darin

Happy February!

The music programs are all growing in number!

The newest music program is the Children's Choir/Handbell Choir! Children ages 2 and up are welcome to come sing and play. We are currently working on two new bell songs, "Jesus loves me" and "He's got the whole world in His hands."

Children and adults are welcome to sing and play with this group any time! Remember that you don't need to know how to read music to participate in any part of the Children's music groups. I am exploring the possibility of adding percussion to the children's music programs soon.

We meet in The Campbell Room from 9 – 9:15 am on:

February 4th, 11th, 25th

March 10th, 24th

April 7th, 14th, 28th

May 5th, 12th.

The children will sing/play for Easter, which is March 31st.

I am planning on having the children sing/play for Mother's Day, which is May 12th.

Chancel Choir rehearsal time has changed from Wednesdays from 4:30 – 5:30 pm to Wednesdays from 6 – 7 pm. We are working on some super fun music, including a great jazz piece, as well as fun Lent and Easter music. The Chancel Choir has been singing on the first Sunday of the month. There will be no Easter Crusade Cantata this year. However, there will be a special Easter choir, who will sing music throughout the Lent season. There is a special Easter Season Choir with rehearsals starting the second week of February, Wednesdays from 6-7 pm.

The Men's Quartet is also back and looking for any men who want to sing! We have some great music selections and are looking for additional male singers to join. This group meets on Thursdays from 4 – 5 pm in the Campbell Room.

The Men's Quartet has been singing in church on the last Sunday of the month. This group may also sing other Sundays, as needed.

Music Department needs:

- Song leaders to lead worship music on the first and third Sunday of the month.
- Singers and instrumentalists who want to sing/play at any number of services
- Someone who is able to help sort, file, and organize all Choir music into alphabetic order as well as organizing music seasonally. It would be ideal to have one person on a computer/laptop or ipad to enter song titles, etc., on a spreadsheet, and 2 – 3 more people to put music in folders with labels, then filed. (The last alphabetical and numerical lists of music were last done in 2010.)

If you or someone you know are interested in participating in any of our music programs, or helping in other ways with music, please email or text me at:

jeuteneuer@fpcstcloud.org / 320-291-7425.



Jullian Euteneuer

Jullian Euteneuer

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



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

Craft for Lent.
We will make Easter gifts for our shut-in members.
Come join us!
11:15 a.m. on Sunday, February 18th



Summer Camp 2024



Summer Camp 2024 registration is now open!
Theme: Linked by Love

Check out the website: www.clearwaterforest.org
We usually go during Endless (*July 28- Aug. 2*).

Clearwater Forest offers a variety of camps; Day camp (for youth who have completed K-5th grade), & First Timers (a taste of full week camp from Sunday to Wednesday for 7-9 year old).

Confirmation



The new confirmation class has started with Pastor Darin and Paula Tift. The key theme of the first lesson was "We belong!" We belong to one another, and we belong to God. Please keep the confirmation students in your prayer as they explore and deepen their understanding of God.

Not all participants shown in the photo.

Communion Assistance

Would you be interested in being a communion assistant? A communion assistant is an individual who helps instruct the elders and deacons on the Sunday morning procedures associated with communion. They also help Pastor Darin during the communion service. You would be responsible for approx. three Sundays per year. We are hoping to have four assistants and we currently have two already. For more information, please contact Bobbie Lampi (320) 267-0942

With Much Gratitude



Thank you for all the prayers, cards and well wishes that were sent during my recuperation in October from a fall. They were very much appreciated and my current goal is to stay upright. With Love to my Church Family. Submitted by Jan East

J.U.L.E.T

The next gathering of Just Us Ladies Informally Eating Together will be Feb. 10 at 11:30. Meet at Panera at 27th and Division and order off the menu. We will be celebrating Mardi Gras and the Lunar New Year, Year of the dragon. Wear gold, green, purple for Mardi Gras or red and white for the New Year. Bring a joke about dragons, or what you might give up for Lent or the name of your favorite food that contains fat. questions -- jeodgers@gmail.com 320-496-0916

Who's Who in the Pew?**Stephanie Randolph**

I grew up in Fridley, Minnesota, and graduated from Fridley High School in 1980. I was adopted into the Hyatt family and had two brothers and a sister. Suburban life in the 60's was really a great way to grow up. I spent a lot of time with Grandparents in NE Minneapolis and Dinkytown going on endless city adventures. From my parents I learned the value of hard work and the importance of being humble and independent.

I am lucky that some of my favorite pastimes also became my career! I was heavily involved in theater in high school and then later in community theater in Saint Cloud. Thankfully, my parents started me in piano at age 8. I know it was a financial burden for them at that time, but for me it was life changing. I went on to become a vocal music and theater teacher for 38 years!

I have belonged to First Presbyterian Church for approximately 25 years. I grew up in the Disciples of Christ Christian tradition. It was a small loving congregation. I sang in the church choir and every adult in the church made me feel loved. Even as a small church there were many youth activities including church camp in Newton, Iowa.

I am blessed to have three great boys: Isaac and Charlie Pentz, and Jack Randolph, two stepdaughters and son-in-laws and 5 step grands! I cherish times we are all able to be together. Interestingly, I also connected with two biological siblings in recent years and have truly enjoyed getting to know them and their families. My Faith truly has been a journey. After losing my husband in 2010, I have leaned on many Bible verses over the years.

Psalm 23: 1-6: "The Lord is my shepherd..." Although I have recited this verse since my Sunday school days so long ago, after losing Doug it took on new meaning for me. It became a verse not to comfort those who are dying, but to comfort those who are left behind.

When not working I enjoy being outdoors. I love the Boundary Waters and the north shore. Camping, hiking, golfing, fishing and swimming are some of my favorite things. Warm weather destinations are always welcome in the winter.



Home Delivered Communion

On Communion Sunday, have you ever noticed the small, rectangular red or blue containers resting on the corner of the Communion Table and wondered what they are and why they're there? Inside the containers are bread, grape juice and small cups, all used for providing communion for the homebound of our congregation. The containers are on the Communion Table for the contents to be blessed during our Communion service.

Home Delivered Communion at First Presbyterian Church originated around the year 2000, toward the end of Pastor David Reiter's tenure. Many in our congregation were homebound and unable to attend church to receive communion. The novel idea of home delivered communion was suggested. At the time the practice was not done in other congregations in our Presbytery, so the idea and process had to go through an approval process. Once approved, a liturgy was decided upon, and training was provided for the volunteers. At the time, volunteers were limited to ordained Elders (both current and former).

Linda Addicott and Janet Cotton were the first volunteers to deliver communion to the homes of church members. Soon, so many people requested the service that three teams (consisting of two Elders per team) each visited two homes on Communion Sunday. The "homes" were of many varieties, including single family, assisted living and nursing homes.

A few things have changed since then. Now both current and former Elders and Deacons can deliver home communion, and it is considered a Mission of the Deacons. Currently 10 Elders and Deacons participate in this Mission. There are 3 or 4 teams that go out each month, and each team usually only goes to one home.

A side benefit of Home Delivered Communion is the fellowship that occurs during our visits. Communion recipients and servers engage in conversation and share news from the church and community, as well as any concerns that the recipients may have. Through this simple Mission we all grow together in the love of Christ.

-Submitted by Gail Alderks



Care for the Earth

Did you know that the city of St. Cloud has made remarkable strides in pursuing carbon-neutral goals? Join us online Feb. 7 at 1:00 pm to hear from St. Cloud's Public Services Director, Tracy Hodel. Tracy will share about what's possible and the city's visionary leadership. The Zoom presentation is sponsored by the UMRRL League of Women Voters with support from the St. Cloud chapter of Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light.

Registration link: https://mnipl.nationbuilder.com/st_cloud_circular_economy
For more information, please see Jerry Dirks (320) 260-2328 or Carol Dirks (320) 761-1921

Souper Bowl of Caring

Our youth will be collecting monetary donations after worship on the day of Super Bowl **(Sunday, February 11)** to tackle hunger. We will donate all the proceeds to The Huskies Food Pantry at St. Cloud State University. Pick your favorite team! (We will also have a soup pot for commercials!) Let's change the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring!

Started at a Presbyterian Church in South Carolina, the movement now involves thousands of organizations and millions of dollars. Since its inception, the organization has raised more than \$175 million for local food banks.



tacklehunger.org

Rose Window Installation

Pictured are the gentlemen who re-installed the Rose Window back into place. We are grateful for their help. We are especially grateful to the donors who made the restoration possible!



Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped take down, repack and put away the Advent and Christmas decorations. Pictured are some of the students who helped place the nativity back in its place.





Service Group 2-February

Chairs - Kari Ahles/Alvin Yu & Michelle Chan

- Tom & Linda Addicot Ryne Pentz
- Jackie Benn Randy & Janice Saliares
- Floyd & Elaine Fautsch Jerry & Julee Sticha
- Randy Hammond Scott & Lyn Varner
- Roger & Sharon Minet
- Matt & Jessica Nikodym

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

Date	Worship Leader	Ushers	Greeter
February 4	Randy Hammond	Randy & Kathy Arnold/Ryne Pentz	Kari Ahles
February 11	Michelle Chan	Mary Lease/John Pike	Randy & Kathy Arnold
February 18	Tamara Calhoun	Linda Bettison/Jeanne Duininck	Michelle & Alvin Yu Chan
February 25	Bobbie Lampi	Joe & Stephanie Jacobs	Nancy Coleman
March 3	Nancy Horn	Gail Aalderks & Mike Rutter	Dick Andzenge
March 10	Ryne Pentz	John Bowden & John Detra	Linda Bettison
March 17	Jon Tufte	John Hoffman & Ryne Pentz	Alvin Yu & Michelle Chan
March 24	Rhonda Siltman	Dan Owen & Mike Tollefson	John Hoffman
March 31	Rachel Buchin	Jeanne Duininck & David Morreim	John Pike

- Barbara Isaacson 02/02
- Sharon Johnson 02/03
- Daniel Calhoun 02/06
- Roger Duininck 02/06
- Scott Varner 02/07
- Grayden Ewing 02/09
- Mary Giese 02/09
- Sharon Minet 02/09
- Chuck (Charles) Pelzer 02/09
- Nancy Coss 02/10
- Mary McMullen 02/10
- Pat Hontos 02/12
- Arlene Wickmann 02/14



- Betty Moffitt 02/15
- Phyllis Feia 02/16
- Jackson Nikodym 02/16
- Paige Nutter 02/16
- Dan Owen 02/20
- Steven Shaler 02/21
- Reese Baas 02/24
- Alvin Yu 02/24
- Stephanie Jacobs 02/25
- Carole Lysher 02/25
- Phyllis Bowden 02/26
- Don Fortner 02/27

Finances

December Contributions	\$ 42,445.00
December Expenses	\$ 30,233.00
Monthly (over/under)	\$ 12,013.00
Year-to-date	\$ 55,455.00



Ash Wednesday Worship

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, forty weekdays before Easter. The practice of placing ashes on the forehead symbolizes repentance and contrition. This year's worship gathering will be February 14th at 7:00pm.

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

E C C L E S I A S T E S 3 : 2 0

"Breaking Bread" - Soup Dinner

- **Wednesday, February 21st** (crockpot soups, homemade breads & desserts)
- 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 Youth & College Ministry.



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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. - 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!*

FEBRUARY 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, Bob Butter,
Norine Schmitt

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