

The Tower

November 2024



First Presbyterian Church

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

Thanksgiving Potluck

This month our community meal is a potluck after church. Instead of our usual Wednesday meal, we are hosting a gathering after worship.

The potluck will take place on **Sunday, Nov. 17 after worship** in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider bringing the following based on your last name:

A-L Desserts & Salads

M-Z Main Dish

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

The Henry Girls in Concert!

The Henry Girls are a marvelous trio of sisters from Malin, Ireland: Karen, Lorna and Joleen McLaughlin. They are great songwriters and have gorgeous three-part harmonies that come partly from the sisterhood bond that they share as well as their lengthy musical history.

With over twenty years of gracing stages together, this trio interweaves their native traditions with bluegrass, jazz and country, and are one of Ireland's top folk acts. They have captivated audiences on worldwide stages in Germany, America, Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Austria and the UK.

The Concert starts at 7 pm on **Saturday, November 2nd.**

Tickets can be purchased online via the Granite City Folk Society website or \$25 at the door.



Church Staff

REV. DARIN SEAMAN
Pastor

BECKY STUDNISKI
Administrative Assistant

JULLIAN EUTENEUER
Music Director

BRAD JOHNSON
Facilities Coordinator

PATTY SCOTT
Custodian

DON ONDRACEK
Assistant Custodian

Pastor's Reflections

“We have too much money in America.” It is a statement that a friend of mine sometimes mutter to each other. It is usually said in jest when someone spends an exorbitant amount of money on something we think is superfluous. Sometimes it might be the cost of a concert or sporting event. At other times it might be the cost of a home in another state or possibly what another family spent on their vacation. Isn't it interesting that we can always come up with something ridiculous when it involves someone else!

The challenge in the season of stewardship is to understand and pray about what gets in the way of a right relationship with God. In October, we learned in the gospel of Mark that wealth can get in the way. In fact, the text reminds us “how hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” (Mark 10:17-31)

The Old Testament also has a lot to say about money and/or possessions. There are stern warnings directed against those who strive for wealth through greed, trickery, or treachery and those who act proud about riches and glory in their wealth (See Genesis 1-2, Exodus 16-17 to cite just a few).

In November every year we reflect on our own stewardship and possessions. We remind ourselves that God is the owner of it all (Psalm 24:1). Theologian John Calvin called the earth the “theater of God's glory.” Second, we are reminded that God has provided more than enough. We then make a covenant to bring a portion of our riches to God. That will take place on Sunday, November 17.

I doubt many of us can resonate with the opening statement above. But, all of us should be able to give thanks to God for the blessings we have received. Please prayerfully consider what your pledge will be in 2025. May we all grow in our understanding of stewardship and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace to you.




Rev. Darin Seaman

November Sermon Titles

November 3
“God and Neighbor”
Mark 12:28-34

November 10
“Giving Everything”
Mark 12:38-44

November 17
“Desires and Destination”
1 Samuel 1:4-20

November 24
“Christ Reigns”

“He Shall Reign”

A Christmas Worship Experience

Dates: Friday, December **13th** at 7 pm
 Saturday, December **14th** at 7pm
 Sunday, December **15th** at 2pm



Jullian Euteneuer

Crusade Choir Sponsors

The Crusade Choir will be performing next month. Because of the generosity of this congregation and members of the community, the group has been able to bring forth a positive Christmas message for decades. One way you can help is to underwrite some of the costs of the program. If you are able, please send a donation to the church, designated for the Crusade Choir. We'll include your name in this year's program.

Chancel Choir 4:30-5:15pm
 Will meet on Wednesday nights

Bell Choir 7-7:45 pm
 Will meet on Wednesday nights

Crusade Choir 6-6:45 pm
 Will meet on Wednesday nights

Men's "Closer Walk" 3-4 pm
 Will meet on Thursday afternoons

Children's Music programming—Sunday mornings from 9:00—9:15 am
 Children's Sunday Music rehearsal schedule: Oct 27th, Nov 3, 10, 24, Dec 8
 Children's Music During 10:00 Service, Dec 15, and Dec 22 Christmas Eve -
 Tuesday, Dec 24 at 5pm.

Special Music Musicians - flexible schedule

This is for anyone who would like to play an instrument or sing! This can be as a solo, duet, or small group musician. There is no commitment to rehearse weekly, and rehearsals are up to each individual musician.

Women's Songbird Group

A group of nine women singing a variety of songs as the group is available. Rehearsals will be announced.

Ukulele's

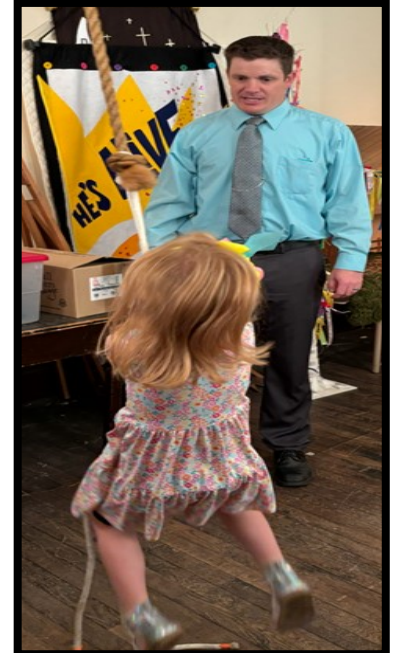
Is your youth interested in learning the ukelele? Contact Me! Classes will start as soon as at least five express interest in learning.

See Jullian's bulletin board outside her office for all schedules through June 2025.

Sunday School Children ~ Growing in Faith, Sharing His Love!

Sunday School Schedule

November 3 - 9 am, In Fellowship Hall
November 10 - 9 am, In Fellowship Hall
November 17 - NO Sunday School, G.I.F.T after the service
November 24 - 9 am, In Fellowship Hall
December 1 - NO Sunday School
December 8 - 9 am, In Fellowship Hall
December 15 - NO Sunday School
December 22 - 9 am, In Fellowship Hall
December 29 - NO Sunday School



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

Prepare for the Season of Hope!
Create Your Own Advent Calendar!
Sunday, November 17th after potluck
Meet at Friends in Faith space.



As we await the birth of Christ, join us for a special time of fellowship and creativity! We'll come together to write Christmas cards for our homebound members and create personalized Advent calendars— perfect to bless yourself, a neighbor, or a loved one. Let's share the love of Christ as we await His coming!

CHRISTMAS TEA, SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars! Set a reminder!

Many of us have barely put summer behind us; it is such a lovely time to spend with family and friends. BUT ... the holiday season is rapidly approaching! And with it, the magical warmth that fills the air and unites our community. Here, at First Pres, we have a wonderful tradition and embrace that collective spirit by hosting a Christmas Tea to support local children. We invite you to join us among festive decorations, and the delicious and enticing treats to share joy, laughter and fellowship with your church family and friends.



When: Saturday, **December 7, 2024**

Reservations / Ordering Information - tickets will be available after November 1st
LIMITED In-Person Seating = \$20 (seats go fast - inquiries have already been made!)
Christmas Tea TO-GO Packs = \$15

All proceeds will go to Place of Hope, Kids Hope Shop

For more information, contact Brenda Espelien at (320) 291-5084

Who's Who in the Pew

My youthful experiences were centered on growing up just off the north arm of Lake of the Isles. My folks and I spent the first few years in my Grandfather's house and then in our own home a short distance away. My early memories included reading (loved Winnie the Pooh), fishing on nearby lakes with my grandfather, making and flying U-Control model planes, swimming in nearby lakes and downhill skiing in Kenwood Park. I also sang in the boys choir in the Episcopal Church. I really branched out in high school and started diving for my high school team. My flying interests expanded and I got a commercial license with instrument rating. It was a close decision to enter dental school or become a pilot.



John Pike

Upon graduation from West High School in Minneapolis, I trekked on to Grinnell College in Iowa and immediately met my future, lovely wife Carole. My flying included piloting a single seat Moony Mite to Moline, Illinois to ask for Carole's hand in marriage. We have spent 72 marvelous years together and consider ourselves blessed. We have four daughters and sadly lost one only a few years ago. For many years at Christmas I recited "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" for our great granddaughters. I wore a Santa Clause costume and Carole did the backup on piano. We also did this for a church gathering and in a senior center.

After our marriage, Carole and I attended a Congregational church in Minneapolis during the completion of my schooling. When we moved up to St Cloud we joined the First Presbyterian Church and became active as deacons and elders. I became chair of the organ restoration committee where we improved the range of music by the addition of more pipes and increased the number of stops. Lately I have served as lay leader and enjoy the experience.

After graduating from the U of M Dental School with a DDS and Master's degree in orthodontics I spent 18 years in practice with my father and another 18 years in solo practice just off the downtown area. I continued my flying experience and piloted my family and friends to various places.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I Have Kept the Faith. - 2 Timothy 4:7



My years in orthodontic practice included a friendship with James Kline, an oral surgeon who convinced me to start running. This evolved into competing for many years in two marathons and triathlons (swim, bike and run) races, mostly in the local area. Jim was also a very accomplished downhill skier and got me back into this activity leading to an instructors rating, teaching kids how to make very smooth turns. My wife Carole and I spent many marvelous Februarys in Breckenridge, Colorado swoosh booming the slopes. Two of our daughters lived there and the rest of our family came out for family reunions. When I could finally keep up a good pace on the slopes Jim Kline and I spent a great week helicopter skiing with a group of people in the Bugaboos, British Columbia on steep, untracked powder snow.

Upon retiring in 1999, I was looking for an activity to keep my nimble hands busy and observed our daughter, Julie, doing needlepoint. She took me to her needlepoint store and they set me up with an eyeglass case to get started. Carole dutifully taught me the finer points of this activity and I have been doing it for many years. I have stitched 19 Christmas stockings for family members plus one for a dog. Another activity that has kept me busy is playing duplicate bridge at Whitney Center with a very accomplished group of card players. I helped out by becoming secretary-treasurer of the membership for quite a few years and enjoyed keeping the records up to date. To conclude, many Bible verses have intrigued me but one of my favorites is from II Timothy 4:7 when Paul states: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race and kept the faith."

Yours in Christ, John B. Pike

Thank you

from Mary McMullen – "Thank you to my church family for all of your prayers and comforting words after Jim's death." – **Mary**

The family of Pat Johnson expresses their thanks upon the death of Pat. "**Thank you**" for all of your visits.



DEACONS CORNER

Salvation Army Bell Ringing Once Again

As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach we can be a part of helping others by volunteering to ring the bells for donations for the Salvation Army.

The Deacons are coordinating a day for our church on **Saturday, November 23rd** (the Saturday before Thanksgiving) **at Lunds & Byerly's from 11:00am to 5pm.**

Please watch for sign up opportunities the first part of November.



The story of how the Salvation Army came to be is an interesting one. The Salvation Army was first founded in London in 1865 by a lay Methodist preacher named William Booth. The Red Kettle tradition started in San Francisco when Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee promised free Christmas dinners to the poor around 1890. He placed a large red lobster pot at the Oakland ferry landing. A sign read “Keep the Pot Boiling.”

Enough money was raised to provide 1,000 meals. The idea spread across the country. By 1896, 150,000 Christmas dinners were served. Four years later in 1900 a young girl began ringing a bell after noticing people were walking right by the red pots. Today the Salvation Army assists over 4.5 million people during the Holiday Season. The red kettles and ringing bells were successful and continue to be symbolic of the Salvation Army for fund raising today!



Annual Fall Bake—Soup—Craft Sale,

Will you be a participant in this year's bake sale fundraiser?

The Bake-Soup-Craft Sale Committee asks for your help to make this event successful. We would appreciate your donations of soup, baked goods, and/or craft items. Donations such as soup and baked goods need not be priced; we'll handle that. However, craft items should have a price tag put there by those who have made them.

Could you bring your donated items on Thursday or Friday, **Nov 21 or 22**? For those who are new to the fundraiser sale, the set up is in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday. Therefore, we are ready for you to make purchases – or even to still drop off items - on Friday, Nov 22.

For those who are not crafters or bakers, a money contribution is welcomed. With the sale at this time, you may want to buy items for yourself, your family, and friends. Since holidays are ahead, some buyers like to get hostess gifts for Thanksgiving or several gifts for Christmas giving. Whatever your needs, we hope you will find something special to buy.

Proceeds are generally put toward the Property Committee's projects.

Dates and times: Friday, **November 22** – 9:00 – 2:00
 Saturday, **November 23** – 9:00 – 2:00
 Sunday, **November 24** – after church services.

Soup makers, please use a quart plastic container for your soup. There are many brands with differing shapes, but our goal is to sell your soup by the quart for consistency.

A heartfelt thank-you! – Bake Sale Committee





Service Group – November

Chair - Paul, Jeanne Duininck
 Linda Baldwin
 Chris and Karen Chopp
 Ron and Marsha Elg
 Jerry and Kit Henkemeyer
 Al and Geri Jergenson

Sarah Kubesh
 Mark Scholar,
 Connie Sandman
 Steven and Wendy Shaler
 Audrey Taatjes
 Zoey Weaver

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
03 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
1 Dec	Bobbi Lampi	John Detra/John Hoffman	Kari Ahles
8 Dec	Tamara Calhoun	John/Sharon Johnson	John Bowden
15 Dec	Rachel Buchin	Mary Lease/David Morreim	Randy/Kathy Arnold
22 Dec	Randy Hammond	Mike/Kim Tollefson	Joe/Stephanie Jacobs
29 Dec	Linda Bettison	Ryne Prentz/Lori Smith	Don/Jan Watkins

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.

Shannon Cabrera 11/01
 Bruce Grosland 11/02
 Duane Scherbing 11/02
 Jan Shaver 11/04
 Floyd Fautsch 11/07
 Brandon Hample 11/07
 Michael Salo 11/07
 Miguel Cabrera 11/08
 David Morreim 11/08
 Sawyer Kadlec 11/10
 Ryne Pentz 11/10
 Brady Neumann 11/12
 Sarah Schoenhard 11/12
 David Baston 11/13
 Serj Kenning 11/14
 Tomoko Rebeck 11/14
 David Roberts 11/14



Jeannie Chu 11/16
 Jeri Olson-Mccoy 11/16
 Darlene Scherbing 11/16
 Brian Tulkki 11/16
 Laila Welsh 11/16
 Lori Smith 11/21
 Bella Brandt 11/25
 Judy Huls 11/25
 Joni Karl 11/25
 Madison Schmidt 11/25
 Jeremy Brandt 11/26
 Jan Watkins 11/26
 John Bowden 11/27
 Shawn Moorhouse 11/27
 Emily Coss 11/30
 Michelle Donaghue 11/30
 Catherine Hilbrich 11/30
 Evan Johnson 11/30

Stewardship Campaign 2024

This year’s theme is “Let Go and Let God”.

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. You should have received your letters and estimate of giving cards in the mail. Please join us on Covenant Sunday, November 17th. During worship, members will bring their estimate of giving cards to the altar in response to God’s many blessings to us.

If you are unable to join us on Covenant Sunday, please drop off or mail your estimate of giving card to the office. Thank you for your continued support of our programs

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

September Finances

September Finances look unusual this month for several reasons. We utilized some of our positive balance to fund the following items:

We pulled money out of our Sanctuary Window funds to pay for the 6 eastside windows.

We paid an additional principal payment of \$15,000 on our capital loan.

We moved \$15,000 to our facility reserve to cover the work on the east parking lot sink-hole next spring.

After these “special payments”, we have a positive balance of \$21,631.67



Finances

September Contributions	\$ 61,386.00
September Expenses	\$ 86,917.00
Monthly (over/under)	\$(25,531.86)
Year to Date (over/under)	\$ 21,631.67



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Saint Cloud, MN
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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.

**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!

NOVEMBER 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