

The Tower

July 2024



First Presbyterian Church

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

Thank you, Jon!

Jon Tuftte has agreed to help play the organ this summer. Jon plans to play two times per month. Please thank Jon for his musical leadership and his ability to adapt to our organ. We are grateful to all of our musicians who help lead the music in our congregation.



Camper Blessing

Join us on Sunday, July 28 for the blessing of our campers as they head off to Clearwater Forest Camp. We will bless, and pray for, eight campers as they prepare to leave for camp. Thank you to everyone who has helped provide resources for these kids to go to camp. Pictured below is the blessing photo from 2023. More information about camp is found on p. 5.



Church Staff

REV. DARIN SEAMAN
Pastor

JULLIAN EUTENEUER
Music Director

BRAD JOHNSON
Facilities Coordinator

PATTY SCOTT
Custodian

ISAAC PENTZ
Assistant Custodian

Pastor's Reflections

"I don't want to wear a name tag." That was a comment the Worship Committee overheard when the discussion of name tags resurfaced. Name tags have been used in churches for a long time to help people connect with one another. Some new folk appreciate connecting with people through the use of name tags.

One long-time member of the congregation, who supports the idea, said that he likes name tags because he can't quite remember names like he once did. "I know the face," he quipped, "but that name just won't surface!" Another woman confided to me, "It's kind of embarrassing not to remember a long-time member's name."

The Worship Committee is again considering name tags. The logistics are being worked out now. What kind should we get? How do we put them back after each use? I don't know what the Committee will eventually recommend but it is interesting that the conversation is happening. I assure you that we won't require them if you don't want to wear one.

The conversation is a good one. It is a hospitality conversation. Hospitality can be defined as "the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way." In the New Testament, the Greek word translated "hospitality" literally means "love of strangers." Luke's gospel is full of examples of hospitality that demonstrated love of strangers.

Regardless of whether or not we decide to bring back name tags, be sure to welcome the "stranger" sitting next to you. Get to know them and welcome them as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

The grace and peace of Christ be with you.




Rev. Darin Seaman

July Sermon Titles

July 7

"Out of the salt shaker" Matthew 5:13-16

July 14

"Sin and Consequences" Joshua 7:1-26

July 21

"Cities of Refuge" Joshua 20:1-9

July 28

"Staying Faithful" Joshua 23-24

Session Highlights (June meeting)

- Discussed how the Triune God may be working in our community, in the SCSU neighborhood and in our church.
- Participated in Book of Order training.
- Reviewed some controversial Bible passages and why they matter.
- Approved pulpit supply for July 7 and August 2.
- Approved the financials.
- Approved the Endowment recommendation - a \$2,500 scholarship payment to students this fall.
- Approved new office hours (8:00—3:00 pm Monday-Thursday).
- Gave thanks for contributions to the Sanctuary Window Project.
- Roof expense for repairs (education wing) was approved and paid.
- Mission payments are up-to-date.
- Discussed use of name tags/badges on Sundays.

First News

Do you received First News, the church's weekly e-newsletter? The newsletter comes out every Monday morning and gives you a weekly look at what might be going on in the church. Designed to be read in under five minutes, the newsletter also gives you an opportunity to consider the prayer requests of the week. If you would like to be put on the church e-newsletter list, please email info@fpcstcloud.org or simply call the church office 251-8277 with your email address.

Finances

May Contributions	\$ 30,195.13
May Expenses	\$ 29,184.41
Monthly (over/under)	\$ 1,010.72
Year to Date (over/under)	\$ 32,516.36



Brat Sale (Cashwise)

Thank you to everyone who helped support kids heading to Clearwater Forest Camp. You raised funds by selling hot dogs and brats to help offset the cost of camp for our kids. Our campers (Gavin, Rickie, Andrew, Ariel, Lauren, Sara, and the first-time campers- Adam and Eli) will be at Clearwater Forest from July 28 to August 2. Please pray for them, their families, and the camp staff!

Thank you again for all your support to send our campers to Clearwater Forest!!!



About Clearwater Forest

Clearwater Forest is a magical place both in presence and in spirit. The camp is located near Deerwood, MN in Crow Wing County.

It is a place where people come to sing, celebrate, worship, and play together. It is a place of acceptance that encourages people to find their commonalities and embrace their differences. It is a place where campers can try new things and learn new skills without fear of safety or judgment. It is a place where young adults guide and nurture campers into future leaders. It is over 1,000 acres of mostly unspoiled forest and lakeshore, where kayaking, canoeing and water sports are a way of life. Most of all, Clearwater Forest is a place where many feel closest to God and free to connect with their spirituality.

Clearwater Forest is the shared camp and retreat ministry of the Presbyteries of the Twin Cities Area, Minnesota Valleys, Northern Waters, Northern Plains and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.



Thank you!

Thank you to David Morreim and his generosity. David provided plant certificates to help youth attend Clearwater Forest Camp. When you purchased a plant certificate a portion of the certificate went to the church to help offset camp costs. A big "thank you" to David and Pattison Farms!

Who's Who in the Pew?

Sandy Johnson



ly

Tell us about yourself.

"I'm a math teacher." That's my first thought to describe myself. When I was beginning high school in 1956, I had a definite-female ambition – to be a home economics teacher. But, in 1957, when the launch of Sputnik inaugurated the space race, many high school students, both boys and girls, were recruited to National Science Foundation Science and Math camps. It was at one of these that I discovered my love of mathematics. Thank goodness, too, because I really hated sewing!

After graduating with a math major, I taught junior high math and science for four years until I had to quit. Hard to believe, but in 1968, my contract stated that I would resign when I became pregnant, so I dutifully did so. I was a full-time mom for the next 10 years.

When my family moved to St. Cloud in 1978, I applied for a part-time job in the St Cloud State University Department of Mathematics. Not only was I hired, but I taught there for 42 years. I loved my job – my classes, my students, my colleagues, the atmosphere. I had a really hard time deciding to retire.

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

Growing up in Valley City, ND, my family was Methodist. My dad was the head usher and my mom taught Sunday School. My sister and I were enthusiastic participants in all church events – from Bible School to Methodist Youth Fellowship. In my early married years, we were members of Methodist churches in Grand Forks, then in Burnsville. When we moved to Babbitt, MN, in 1975, our protestant church choices were Lutheran or Presbyterian. We chose Presbyterian and became fully involved. Much to the dismay of my parents, we remained Presbyterian when we moved to St Cloud.

Because I had grade-school children, I was recruited by Carol Brink for Vacation Bible School and by Carole Pike and Marge Hams for the Christmas Children's Pageant. Donn and Nicole thrived in the church and were confirmed there. In 1979, We moved to Pelham Manor, NY, and joined the local Presbyterian Church. After four years, we returned to St. Cloud, and rejoined FPC. Being a Deacon has been my favorite church role.

(cont. from previous page)

What is the most interesting place you've been and why?

Bob and I loved to travel, and one incident and location stands out. We went to a conference in Norway, then traveled to Stockholm. At the border, which looked a lot like northern Minnesota, I stood one side, invoking the memory of my grandpa who immigrated from Norway. Bob stood on the other side, remembering his family's Swedish origins. It was really a moment of connections!

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

In Bob's last years, he sought advice from Paster Darin. At a meeting with Bob, Darin wrote a Bible verse on an index card, John 16:33, "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you will face trouble. But take courage; I have overcome the world."

Since Bob died seven years ago, I've claimed the verse. I especially like to read it from *The Message – The Bible in Contemporary Language*. Eugene H. Peterson, the author of *The Message*, lived in Montana, and his words sound like North Dakota to me. He writes John 16:33, "I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world."

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

Many times every day, I long to have a conversation with my sister Connie. She was two and one-half years younger than I and died in 2016. Over dinner, I would ask her the details of our shared remembrances, hear her opinions on questions I grapple with and share my observations about life that we speculated about together. We'd probably do a lot of laughing too!

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

You really don't have to know me well to know that I have four wonderful grandchildren – Noah, McKenna, Allie and Amanda. I'll show photos at the drop of a hat! Especially since I retired, my favorite moments are the times I share with them. I consider myself to be one lucky grandma.

A Brief History of FPC Part II

Mike Rutter



The church, led by the Reverend Campbell and aided by devoted wife Mary, was off to a start. There were plenty of struggles ahead. In his own words, the Reverend described some of the local population as being New England Protestants, and considered them resistant to Presbyterianism. Also, the theory of Evolution by naturalist Charles Darwin was taking root, especially in the minds of writers, university professors, and "young men who went to Germany to complete their education." Evolutionary Theory was something new for the masses to latch onto, and Dr. Campbell was thankful he'd studied the Greek & Hebrew languages to help keep the Bible as "the guide, lamp, the word of God."

In 1886, perhaps the worst tornado storm to ever hit the Midwest closed in on St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, and Rice, ending in much devastation and ending the lives of 72 people in the area. Meetings in the church were postponed until the damage could be cleared and any homeless needs met. St. Cloud, still very much a frontier town, seemed to have its own issues, in the form of a mayor that seemed to ignore the city's growing prostitution and gambling issues. The local aldermen appeared to be on the mayor's side. A public meeting in 1893 did nothing as the outcry of the town folk went unanswered. Easter was also the time of local elections. Sermons on the 1894 Easter Sunday not only at the Presbyterian Church but also from Bishop Zardetti at Holy Angels Catholic Church (and perhaps other churches as well!) "rearranged" the town's leadership through the influence of the voters. Only one member of the local government survived the wrath.

In 1902, a "sanitary Communion outfit" was donated, and in 1905, the first pipe organ was installed, along with the first stained glass window – a gift from the young women in the "Needle Pliers Club." Earlier, the "Born-for-Business" club had provided the pulpit with furniture. Church life was mostly on Sundays due to heating issues, with Communion being served by Elders only four times a year – with the bread home-baked by Mrs. Lewis Clark (step-daughter of John L. Wilson, founder of the city). While the pipe organ could be run on electricity, at times it was either lights or music, requiring fit men to jump into duty, pumping the bellows. In "A History of the First Presbyterian Church," by John J. Dominik (from which this information is taken), this seemed to be the case at Christmas time and other larger events. Christmas, by the way, made for a packed house, as children waited for a "pre-department store" Santa Claus to deliver gifts of colorful ribbon and stick candies!

(cont. on page 11)

Mission Update (Orongo)

The mission project that we support has now chosen a new name—Orongo Mission International. They are maintaining their support of their community and have expanded their impact.

On July 21, we will have greeting cards made by the youth in Orongo available for you to purchase. Charles, who visited us last fall, sent them to us after he saw how much people loved them during his time here. They will be in the Fellowship hall near the coffee sales.

This spring has been a challenging time there due to extreme flooding from nearby Lake Victoria. They have been hosting displaced families providing housing and food. Some of these homes were old mud huts and are now destroyed.

Thanks to our Mission Committee we are able to send monthly food support money to help distribute basic food essentials to the most needy families. In his monthly newsletter Charles says, "We continue to be eternal grateful to First Presbyterian Church membership and leadership for allowing themselves to be led by God in the monthly food support program. It was truly life saving this May.

They have been expanding their outreach with new projects. One you may remember Charles talking about here—the cricket powder that provides valuable protein to their families, is now expanding. They have built a larger cricket rearing building, solar powered dryers and a grinder.

They have also visited school at public forums with the aim of promoting positive social behavior to the youth, worked with the environmental club and planted trees during the national tree planting week. They also conducted a two-day seminar on renewable energy and safe energy use and the dangers of using firewood in the open, traditional stoves.

Thank you for your continued support of this mission. Children supported by our donors allow them to attend school with the required uniforms and books. If you have any questions, please talk with Audrey Taatjes.

-Submitted by Audrey Taatjes



Service Group 7-July



Chairs-Randy & Arlene Wickmann, Bert & Jan East

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|-------------------------|----------------------|
| David & Rachel Buchin | Dick & Sarah Dorn |
| Bill & Karen Ferkinhoff | Bruce Grosland |
| Steve & Barb Isaacson | Don & Karen Ondracek |
| Linda Sarff | Donna Radeke |
| Leroy & Paula Tift | |

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

Date	Worship Leader	Ushers	Greeter
July 7	Gene Williamson	Mike Rutter & Gail Alderks	Linda Bettison
July 14	Nancy Horn	Phil & Jeannie Chu	Nancy Coleman
July 21	Rhonda Siltman	John & Sharon Johnson	Karen Larson
July 28	Ryne Pentz	Dan Owen/Shaula Seaman	Stephanie Randolph
August 4	Bobbie Lampi	Dick Andzenge	John Bowden
August 11	Stephanie Merrell	Leroy & Paula Tift	Phil & Jeannie Chu
August 18	Tamara Calhoun	Lynn Rae Olson & Carrie Raiche	John Pike
August 25	John Bowden	Joe & Stephanie Jacobs	Alvin Yu & Michelle Chan

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.

- Mariah Benn 07/01
- Tristin Hample 07/01
- Robert Hobson 07/01
- Chase Donaghue 07/02
- Sebastian Cabrera 07/03
- Betsy Hayenga 07/03
- Cindy Justin 07/05
- Gene Williamson 07/05
- Brea Corrigan 07/06
- Morrison LaVictoire 07/06
- Jim McMullen 07/06
- Joshua Wood 07/06
- Maximilian Cabrera 07/09
- Nathan Hounkpati 07/11



- David Buchin 07/12
- Brenda Espelien 07/12
- Erica Smith 07/13
- Cole Hedlund 07/15
- Sandy Moorhouse 07/17
- Andrew Giese 07/18
- Susan Stocker 07/20
- Zachary Ruble 07/21
- Randy Saliars 07/22
- NeSe Andzenge 07/23
- Samantha Handley 07/24
- George Hontos 07/26
- Edward Bavery 07/27
- Julee Sticha 07/30

(cont. from page 8)

In his memoirs, Reverend Campbell sites two notable individuals as "great helpers, good advisors, and reliable friends," : James Biggerstaff (a shoemaker) and Henry Z. Mitchell (a man of "wider" education). If the congregation was growing in size and influence, it was also due to the efforts of others. The Smiths, the Clarks, the Calhouns, and the Charles Olds families are mentioned, as is a Mrs. Josiah West, (3rd & final wife of a Civil War captain) who, without children of her own, became a "benefactor of children in general, and a life-long Sunday School teacher." George S. Clark was a printer by trade, his stained hands for some reason reminding churchgoers of the Apostles. Other notable church members included Eleanor Mitchell, Patricia Morriem, Mrs. Warren Andrews, and many others.

Again, from the written records of early church member Glanville Smith: The congregation was a closely-knit community living mainly between 5th Avenue and the Mississippi River, This was considered the fashionable part of town. No parking problems as most walked to church, although the motor car was on the horizon. The Ladies Aid Society (formed 1865) focused on the local health & finances of the church, while a different ladies' group, the Missionary Society (1879) aimed at the study and support of possible church activities world-wide. The Fortnightly Tea formed as a social outing, and from their charitable efforts later grew a Couple's Club. The group for younger members was the Christian Endeavor Society, a thriving, interdenominational organization, which produced an array of successful adults and/or their spouses!

April 7th 1914 saw the Golden Wedding Anniversary of the Campbell's, and they were surprised by the large number of friends present at the home of Misses Edith and Estelle Pattison. A purse of \$100 in gold was presented to Dr. Campbell, while wife Mary received \$50 – undoubtedly a handsome sum back then! The year also saw a simple celebration of the church's 50th Anniversary, which was held on Nov. 19th.

And then, on October 25th, 1916, Dr. Campbell "turned the first shovelful of earth" for the foundation of the new church. (This was just south of a ravine which allowed Lake George to overflow into the Mississippi. The footbridge over this particular ravine was known as "Lover's Lane" to the locals.) The world was, at that time, suffering through the middle of it's first major conflict – WW1, so it was perhaps both fitting and appropriate to produce a magnificent building for the worship of God, His Son Jesus Christ, and The Holy Spirit!

Submitted by Mike Rutter

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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"*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

JULY 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