

The Tower

January 2024

Notice of annual meeting

Our Annual Meeting of the congregation and corporation will take place on Sunday, January 28 after worship. The meeting will recap the events of 2023 and share with you some of the highlights. The meeting will take place in Fellowship Hall.



Notice of Congregational Meeting

Please note there will be a congregational meeting after the Jan. 7 worship service. The purpose is to elect one officer to the office of Deacon.

Installation of Elders/Deacons

Join us on Sunday, January 14th as we install and/or ordain our newest Elders and Deacons. We also practice the laying on of hands and prayers for our ministry leaders. Please keep all of our Elders and Deacons in your prayers.



First Presbyterian Church

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

Church Staff

REV. DARIN SEAMAN
Pastor

CAMILLE TEIGEN
Administrative
Assistant

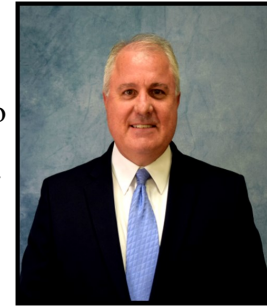
JULLIAN EUTENEUER
Music Director

BRAD JOHNSON
Facilities Coordinator

PATTY SCOTT
Custodian

Pastor's Reflections

In this month's newsletter insert, you will find the Service Groups list for 2024. Service groups play a vital role in the life of the congregation. They, along with others in the church, offer hospitality to members and friends. In Christine Pohl's book about hospitality, *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*, the author explores the biblical and historical research regarding hospitality. The central theme is that for most of church history practicing hospitality was central to Christian identity. Yet, some would say, our current generation knows little about this rich, life-giving practice. The author reminds us:



Rev. Darin Seaman

Hospitality is not optional for Christians, nor is it limited to those who are specially gifted for it. It is instead, a necessary practice in the community of faith. One of the key Greek words for hospitality, philoxenia, combines the general word for love or affection for people who are connected by kinship or faith (phileo), and the word for stranger (xenos). Thus etymologically and practically, in the New Testament, hospitality is closely connected to love.

To extend our hospitality beyond worship we provide opportunities for fellowship. We call them Service Groups. These groups serve after worship each Sunday offering hospitality to those who make it downstairs. Specifically, they bring cookies and help serve throughout the year including helping with the monthly dinner we provide. Below are some questions that have come up over the years.

What if I can't serve anymore?

We realize that not everyone can serve after worship in the kitchen and fellowship hall. But, some may prefer to bring cookies or help out in some other way rather than serving in the kitchen.

If I am the coordinator do I serve every Sunday?

Not at all. You are responsible for lining up servers for your particular month. Please do not think that you are required to do the work by yourself.

Do I need to do everything exactly like it was last week?

No. Service groups vary in form and function and some like to put their own personality on their own service.

I hope you will continue to demonstrate hospitality as you have done over the years. I am grateful for everyone's help with this ministry. The grace and peace of Christ be with you.

January Sermon Titles

Jan. 7 Epiphany

"Arise, Shine"

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jan. 14

"Come and See"

John 1:43-51

Jan. 21

"Calling"

Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 28

"Authority"

Mark 1:21-28

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who made Advent and Christmas special here at FPC. You helped create an atmosphere of joy as you helped join in the praise of God. The Crusade Choir was a beautiful expression of praise as we celebrated "Comfort and Joy." The Chancel Choir, Handbells, and other ensembles combined to a unique expression of praise.

I am grateful for your participation and leadership in the music ministry. My heart is overjoyed with your work and the ways you serve alongside one another. If you are interested in joining the music ministry here at church, please contact me (320) 251-8277 to see where your talents might fit within our program. Blessings to you in 2024!



Jullian Euteneuer



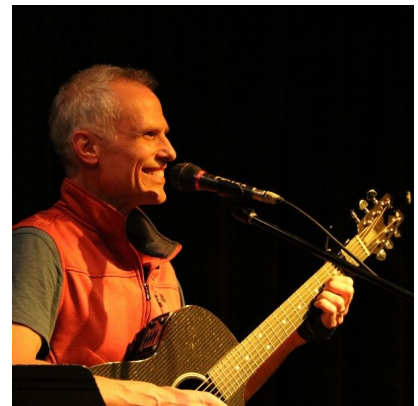
Peter Mayer Returns

Peter Mayer returns to our church on February 2 at 7 pm. Peter Mayer is a songwriter's songwriter (We'll substitute.)

"There are at least a dozen Peter Mayer songs that I would love to learn myself, but I could never play them as well as he does." --David Wilcox, Singer/Songwriter

"Mayer's songs are crafted like shaker furniture, with no place for superfluous embellishments or throwaway lines. . . .

Mayer's fluid, clean, and tremendously intriguing guitar playing is topped with warm, rich vocals. This is music for the soul." --Acoustic Guitar Magaz



Tickets available granitecityfolk.org

Thank you!

Thank you for serving as part of the Nativity Cast at last month's Crusade Choir performance. You also served in the areas of worship leadership and reading liturgy in the month of December.



COMFORT AND
JOY



G.I.F.T. (Generations om Faoth Together) Sunday

11:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 21st



Meet us in the kitchen!

We are cooking a light lunch together.

Menu: English muffin pizza & yogurt parfait.

Bring your appetite!

Community Dinner

Menu: Soup

Wed., Jan. 17 Serving starts at 5:00 pm
Look for the signup in the Main Entrance.

Bring something to share.
Free-will offering supports
Youth and College Ministry.



January Youth Calendar

January 7—No Youth Snday School

January 10—Confirmation

January 14 — Youth Sunday school (9 am)

January 17—Wednesday Night Dinner (Soup)

January 21—G.I.F.T. Sunday (11:15 am)

January 24—Sr. High Youth @ Seaman's (6:30 pm)

January 28—Youth Sunday School (9:00 am)

Thank you, John!

-Reprinted with permission from Catholic Charities

For John Bowden, known as Grandpa John to the students at Talahi Community School, assisting children is in his DNA. After working in education for over 40 years, John decided to continue impacting students by volunteering in the Foster Grandparent Program, first in Marshall and then in St Cloud. For the past 14+ years, John has volunteered with the AmeriCorps Seniors Central

MN Foster Grandparent Program sponsored by Catholic Charities and his impacts have stretched far and wide. Grandpa John loves to work one-on-one with students and challenge them in reading and math. He is known for assisting students to **believe** they can achieve and will lead them to read, spell, or complete math problems that are well above the child's current grade level. Grandpa John also impacts the greater community with his gift of writing which has helped to secure grant funding for an adaptive playground and introduce many, many special programs at various schools. At a recent school assembly, the staff and students wanted to thank Grandpa John for the tremendous impact he has made over the years. So, on cue, all the students shouted, "Happy Birthday, Grandpa John" as he was given the gift of an Oak Tree as seen in the photo. Talahi means, "Among the Oaks." The leaves on the tree are fingerprints of the students Grandpa John assists. Thank you, Grandpa John, for sharing your gifts over the years to improve the lives of children. You are amazing!



More Foster Grandparents are needed at various sites in the community. If you wish to gift your time and talent to infants, young learners, or teens, then please call Sue at (320) 229-4589. You, too, can be a gift to children in the community!

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

The deacons would like to thank our congregation for their contributions of food, personal care items, and cash to Mother Hubbards Cupboard during our November drive. Your generosity resulted in 374 pounds of food and personal care items, and \$140 in cash. The items and cash collected were distributed to Terebinth Refuge, Promise Neighborhood, and the Salvation Army. Once again, thank you. . Submitted by Randy and Kathy Arnold.

Deacons Corner

In December the Deacons and Elders had a joint potluck. We thanked the class of 2023 for their service and welcomed the new members of the class of 2026. We would like to introduce you to the 5 new Deacons.



Michael Rutter

This is my first time serving as a Deacon, although my wife Gail Alderks has served previously. Gail and I have two adult children, Erika and Ian. I was married once before, and have a daughter Christina, who lives in White Bear Lake with her husband Jeremy and my two granddaughters, Jacqueline and Charlotte. I grew up south of Hibbing, MN in a logging family, and attended a one-room schoolhouse until the 4th grade. Work was emphasized over activities, so I did not participate in sports. Instead, I trained in martial arts (judo, karate, kung fu), a practice that has continued throughout my adult life. Now retired from a series of courier & delivery related jobs, I enjoy domestic travel, particularly road trips in a Mazda Miata.

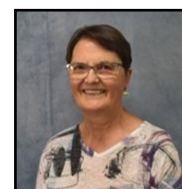


Gail Alderks

I'm looking forward to serving as a Deacon again, especially since my husband, Michael Rutter, will be serving alongside me. As he mentioned, we have two adult children who live in Sauk Rapids. I retired from CentraCare and have spent the past few summers working part time as a seasonal gardener for the City of Sauk Rapids. I grew up in Renville, MN, and attended Ebenezer Presbyterian Church. I moved to St. Cloud to attend St. Cloud State University and have mostly lived in the St. Cloud area since that time.

Audrey Taatjes

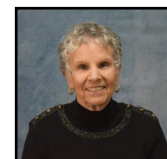
I am honored to be joining the Deacon ministry once again. My family consists of 3 children and 8 grandchildren who all live in the Twin Cities area. I grew up in Raymond, MN and moved to Kimball after college. There I taught school as a media specialist and some English classes. While living there my family and I attended the Methodist Church. I moved to St. Cloud in the early nineties, am now retired and enjoy volunteering through RSVP at the Paramount, Rox baseball and other activities. Here at First Presbyterian, I'm on the Mission committee and sing in the Chancel Choir.



Paula Tift

I am looking forward to once again serving as a Deacon at First Pres. I enjoy the connection with other members and it's a great way to be of service to others. Leroy and I have been members for 40 some years. Our four children were raised in this church and have many fond memories from their time here. I look forward to closer friendships and experiences serving as a Deacon the next three years....God willing and guiding me...

I was born in Pennsylvania, the youngest of 2 girls. My sister lives in California. I moved to Minnesota years ago and am retired from the phone company, DeZurik and lastly District 742 as a special ed paraprofessional. I previously was an Elder for 2 terms and a Deacon. As a Deacon I started Mother Hubbard's cupboard with Marsha Ziebarth. I enjoyed visiting with homebound member and look forward to being a part of that mission again.



Mary Lease

Lectern Flowers

This coming year, in memory or honor of a loved one or in commemoration of an event, please consider providing lectern flowers on a given Sunday. You may indicate which Sunday you would like by writing your name and date on the chart in the office. You will be called prior to that Sunday for information as to what you would like to appear in the bulletin.

New to the Church Library

Why Did God Do That?

(2023) by Matthew Tingblad and Josh McDowell

The book explores how a good God has reasons for God's challenging actions in the Bible. Throughout the book, you will uncover the reality of God's consistent motives and purposes: holiness, justice, and radical mercy. Matthew is the son of Helen and Jim Tingblad.

Dear Jacob

(2023) by Patty Wetterling

The book tells the story of the search for Jacob Wetterling, including the family's struggles and how Patty's family chose to focus on hope throughout the process. Patty became a speaker, trainer, and national advocate for missing children.

Funeral Committee Update

This committee is under new leadership and we are looking for help. But first we want to thank Arlene Wickman for her many years of service. You did an amazing job. If you are interested in assisting in the kitchen or being on the list to provide bars/cookies, please let us know.

When hands reach out in friendship, hearts are touched with joy.

Jeanne Duinick, 320-249-6778 and Joni Karl, 320-267-5323

J.U.L.E.T

J.U.L.E.T. (Just Us Ladies Eating Together) will have a first gathering on January 6th (Epiphany) at 11:30. We will meet at Panera on Division and 27th.

All gals of all ages welcome, so bring your daughter or young friend. Order off the menu. Bring a joke about the Magi. Any sort of Wisecrack is fine.

Next up --- Mardi Gras!

Questions? Ideas? Jane Odgers jeodgers@gmail.com

Who's Who in the Pew?

I love living in St. Cloud. I enjoy all the opportunities for attending events in the arts, sports and multiculturalism. I volunteer in many of these. I've attended FPC for almost 30 years. Previous to moving here, I lived in Kimball. My family moved there right after college and I taught school there until I retired. I attended the Kimball United Methodist Church. I have three children and eight grandchildren who all live in the twin cities area. They bring so much meaning to my life. I get to see them often, especially when I went to many of the grandkids' school activities. Only 2 are still in high school. They grow up so fast! The most interesting place I have been to is Kenya. Jessica Has-slen, a former member here, invited a friend and me to visit her there. She showed us around to many missions there. The one that captured our hearts was Kisumo-Orongo Orphans and Widows. Many here got to learn more about this mission and meet Charles Gundo, the director, when he visited here last month. The people there have so little, but are so happy and thankful for what they do have. It was a valuable life lesson for me. The Bible verses that hold deep meaning for me are from Philippians 4: "Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice" and verse 13. "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Reading and living these helped me get through chemo treatments 21 years ago. I like to fill my days with volunteering. It gives me joy and satisfaction and brightens my day. I do this in the community and here at church. I also am an avid reader and belong to three book groups. Cooking is also something I love doing. A unique thing about me is that in high school in the small town of Raymond, MN in the mid 60's I was in the trombone section of my band consisting of 5 girls. Let me know if that is more common!

Audrey Taatjes



Thank you!



Angel Gift Tree

Giving gifts at Christmas is a fun and wonderful tradition. Thank you to all who helped brighten the holidays for those in need. We were able to provide gifts for 54 children and 8 caregivers because of your generosity. What a great way to honor our gift from God.



Service Group 1-January

Chairs - Betty Vigen/Barry and Sandy Ross

Dick Andzenge

Darla Neumann

Vicki/David Baston

Verlyn Owen

Jeannie and Phil Chu

Betty Vigen

Arsene Folka

Barry and Sandy Ross

Jan Larson

Rhonda Stiltman

Lynn Miller

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
January 7	John Bowden	Gail Aalderks/Mike Rutter	Dick Andzenge
January 14	Ryne Pentz	Nancy Coleman/John Detra	Linda Bettison
January 21	Gene Williamson	John Hoffman/David Morreim	Alvin Yu & Michelle Chan
January 28	John Pike	Dan Owen/John Bowden	Jan Larson
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

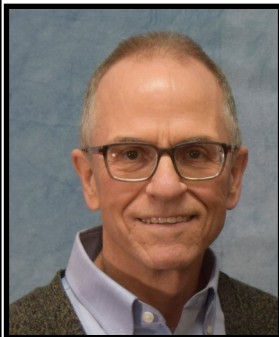
Nyakim Gatwech	01/01
Mary Ruble Johnson	01/01
Elizabeth Tot	01/01
Carol Brink	01/09
Adam Smith	01/13
Jerry Henkemeyer	01/14
Susan Hornibrook	01/14
Jeffrey Benn	01/17
Jan East	01/18
Caroline Johnson	01/18
Chet Buckley	01/19
Alarie Chu	01/19

Happy
Birthday

Richard Lawrence	01/19
Vicky Pelzer	01/19
Ken Picha	01/19
Helen Tingblad	01/21
Don Casey	01/24
Dorothy Paskvan	01/24
Braylon Yogerst	01/28
Joy Weeres	01/30
Marlene Trummel	01/31

Finances

November Contributions	\$ 31918.56
November Expenses	\$ 24527.66
Monthly (over/under)	\$ 7390.90
Year-to-date	\$ 42441.98



Finance

Everything we have comes from God. During this holiday season, God's blessings continue to flow into our church and its members. Although this past year may have been a struggle for many of us, our church family continues to support the many activities of our church, maintain relationships, and reach out to the community.

THANK YOU to everyone that continues to support our church financially. Our members are so generous!!

With your generous support, we have been able to do a lot of activities this year. This includes all of the following and more. We have wonderful music programs, including, Chancel choir, Bell Choir, Crusade Choir, and Lower Town Ministries. We are able to support missions, mission trips, Clearwater Forest and campers, guest speakers, Pastor Sabbatical, and outdoor concert. We were able to maintain our physical building and grounds; this included the refurbishing of the Rose Window, and the Bell Tower windows and more. We are truly blessed. Thank you to everyone.

Happy New Year, God's blessings to you,
Tom Horn

Per Capita Assessment

Per Capita for 2024 is \$45.00 for each member. What is per capita? Per Capita connects Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations and mid-councils with the work of the wider church. As the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly (OGA), it is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of moving the church forward in the 21st century. The church forwards a payment to the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys. If you can give more or even another Per Capita for someone else, it is much appreciated.

First Presbyterian Church
340 South 5th Avenue
Saint Cloud, MN 56301
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Non-Profit Organization
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PERMIT NO. 311
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!

JANUARY 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