

The Tower

October 2022

Upcoming Loaves and Fishes Community Meal

“Spooky Spaghetti Supper”

Join us for our next community meal on Wed., Oct. 26. We serve from 5:00—6:30 pm. If you can bring a side to share, please see the sign up in the main entrance.



Wear your favorite Halloween costume (no scary costumes, please) and invite someone to join you at the meal. Kid-themed activities are planned until 7:00 pm.



First Presbyterian Church

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

Church Staff

REV. DARIN SEAMAN
Pastor

DON FORTNER
Music Director

MARY NOTHNAGEL
Administrative Assistant

PATTY SCOTT
Custodian

Pastor's Reflections

I watched some of the events of Queen Elizabeth's funeral. It was a state funeral which always gets under my skin a bit. There is no separation of church and state in the United Kingdom. In the U.K., bishops are appointed by parliament and clergy are paid (mostly) by what we would call endowment funds.

The state will always celebrate power, not humility. When soldiers parade down a street or when crown jewels are set atop a casket it makes for good entertainment for those watching but what about us?

One could argue that we have our own "show" when it comes to worship. Robes, stately sanctuary, candles, etc. But, our true nation is the Kingdom of God throughout the world. Yes, we can be patriotic but we need the constant reminder that Queen Elizabeth, and our civic leaders, are human beings in need of redemption.

As I watched the service it was clearly a Trinitarian worship service honoring the Queen's life of faith. Many of the prayers at her funeral are uttered in our own rites here at church. They may be adapted for use in our tradition, but they are similar. The funeral was familiar and comforting.

As I watched the Queen's service I was reminded of the powerful words of our eucharistic liturgy:

Christ died for us,
Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us.

At the time of her funeral, I officiated another funeral in our sanctuary with a lot less pomp and circumstance. Exactly six people were in attendance. No soldiers. No crown. No streets lined with people. I shared with the gathered community the irony of our ceremony compared to the Queen's. But, I said, "the destination for both the Queen and our loved one remains the same. And God is with us through it all."

Thanks be to God!



Rev. Darin Seaman



October Sermon Titles

October 2
"Blood"
Matthew 26:26-30

October 9
"Cross"
Matthew 16:24-28

October 16
"Persisting in Prayer"
Luke 18:1-8

October 23
"Hypocrisy in Prayer"
Luke 8:9-14

October 30
"Seeking and Saving"
Luke 19:1-10

Don Fortner



Music Director

Email: donfortner@fpcstcloud.org

Fall schedules are back and regular rehearsals have begun for Chancel Choir, Ecumenical Choir and the Lower Town Project. First Presbyterian has already hosted two concerts in September. The Pacifica String quartet sponsored by the Saint Cloud Chamber Music Society and a folk duo “Ordinary Elephant” sponsored by the Granite City Folk Society. These groups are thrilled with the sound of the room and the reinforcement provided by our Danby Speakers filtered through the talented hands of Mr. Jay Espelien. (Jay is

such a gift to our music program. Thank you, Jay for the countless hours you volunteer to provide and maintain our world class sound system.) Our programs are in need of hands-on hosting for these events. Ushers, greeters, kitchen facilitators, artist hosts. Please consider getting involved in our community outreach through these musical programs.

Upcoming events:

Friday, October 7th - Ann Reed and Joan Griffin - 7PM Tickets \$20 /online and \$25/ door.

Singer-songwriter (and novelist and deviser of theatrical pieces) Ann Reed is another Minnesotan with a national audience, thanks to decades of touring, festivals, radio and television appearances, and recording (twenty albums). Even her twelve-string guitar was made in Minnesota (by Charles Hoffman). Special guest Joan Griffith is a multi-instrumentalist (guitar, mandolin, bass), composer, teacher, radio host (on jazz station KBEM), and member of the Twin Cities-based Jazz Women All-Stars. After a couple years of house-bound performing, it will be nice to have Ann and Joan here in person.



Friday, November 4th - Pat Donohue 7 PM Tickets: \$20 / online and \$25 / door.

Friday, December 2nd - Dennis Warner & The D's 7PM Tickets: \$15 online and \$20 at the door.

December 9th, 10th, 11th - Evenings in December presents: “Swing into the Spirit of Christmas”

Sunday School

October 2 at 9am – Classroom

October 9 at 9am – Classroom

October 16 at 9 am—Classroom

October 23 at 9am – **NO CLASS DUE TO MEA BREAK**

October 30 at 9am – G.I.F.T. Sunday in Fellowship Hall – description on next page!

First Day of Sunday School, Sept 18



G.I.F.T. Sundays

G.I.F.T. stands for **Generations In Faith Together** and it is for EVERYONE – not just Sunday School students and their parents! All generations of our church family gather together to learn, interact and build relationships across all ages and back grounds.

G.I.F.T. activities vary – it may be a service project, lesson with small group discussion, game, fellowship over a meal or an art project, just to name a few. These interactions create wonderful memories and connections which can brighten our days!

Have you ever heard the phrase “it takes a village to raise a child?”
Many parents would say that it’s a true statement and
we want YOU to join in the village raising the next generation of followers of Jesus!

Oct 30 9am Neighborly Care Package creation & delivery

“The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

There is no commandment greater than these.” ~ Mark 12:31

Nov 20 9am Watercolor Postcards back by popular demand to RSVP by 11/18:

torebell@hotmail.com for supply planning purposes o No artistic background required – come and be amazed by what you can create!

With Much Gratitude

October 9 is Pastor Appreciation Day so please be sure to give Pastor Darin and any clergy you know an extra thank you for their current or past ministry. We are thankful for Pastor Darin Seaman's ministry to our church as well as for his continued leadership and service to our congregation!

Loaves and Fishes

Many thanks to the fishermen, the fish fry crew, the kitchen crew, the volunteers who brought sides and desserts, and the participants! It was a successful and yummy night!



Upcoming Loaves and Fishes Community Meal – Wednesday, October 26 serving 5:00-6:30pm, fun activities until 7pm

Sign up to bring a sauce, bread or dessert

Halloween Themed – **Spooky Spaghetti Supper with activities for children**

Wear a fun Halloween costume – all ages!



Friends in Faith

Our campus ministry meets at Atwood Center on the campus of SCSU. We meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the Alumni Room.

Mike Tollefson says Thank You!

As most of you know I spent a week in Dawson Springs., Kentucky, working side by side with Habitat for Humanity rebuilding homes which sustained damage a year ago in tornados that ripped through the area. They were also hit by flooding this year. So, you can imagine the devastation that they are living with.

A few of the residents in the Dawson Springs area are continuing to live in storage pods that have been provided by a company in the area. This allows them to have shelter until their homes are completed.

I spent the week with Joe, an employee of Habitat's that is working to restore the homes in this area, one by one. We spent our days sheet rocking a home and rebuilding a deck in one area. We then went to another area and leveled the homes foundation under another victims living room. These were time-consuming but very necessary projects to complete so that these two elderly women could return to living in their homes. There were 6 of us that unloaded a semi full of side-by-side refrigerators that are being donated for those that need them to complete renovations on their homes to make them livable.

Joe told me that the goal of Habitat is to have ten new homes built by the anniversary date of the tornado, which is the first week of December. And the main goal is to have 50 new homes built in two years.

I want to thank my First Presbyterian Church Family for their prayers for my safe travels, the Mission Committee for their monetary support in making it possible for me to venture out on this mission trip. I also want to thank all the congregation members for their support in various other ways.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.



Finances

August Contributions	\$45,038.07
August Expenses	\$36,404.23
Over/under	\$ 8 ,633.84
YTD over/under	\$55,232.76



My Help Comes from the Lord

This year our Stewardship campaign theme is based on Psalm 121 verses 1-2

*I lift my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

Everything we have comes from the Lord. God's greatest gift to us is forgiveness of our sins through salvation in Jesus Christ. How can we repay him? We can give back to God what is God's, so that through our gifts, the love of God can become a tangible reality in our world.

As we are returning to normal worship and our many activities, we want to say THANK YOU for your continued giving of time, talents, and tithes. Our members are faithful, generous, and caring people. Through the generosity of our members, our love of God can be seen in our church family and the surrounding community.

As part of the Stewardship Campaign, a letter and pledge card will be included in your third quarter giving statement. You should receive the statement/letter the second week of October.

Our annual budget reflects our programs that define us as a congregation.

Please prayerfully consider your pledge and how it might assist in the needs of our congregation and community. We have set Sunday, November 13th as Covenant Sunday, when we bring our gifts/pledges in response to God's love and blessings we have received. Please join us on November 13th.

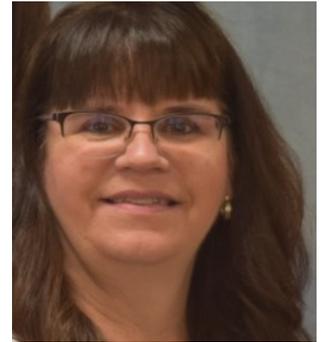
God's grace to you,
Karen Ondracek

Upcoming Bake Sale & Crafts

Dates for this year's sale are Friday, November 18th, Saturday, November 19, and Sunday, November 20th following worship.

Who's Who in the Pew?

Stephanie Jacobs



Tell us about yourself:

I was born in Duluth, MN, and grew up on the north shore of Lake Superior, graduating from Two Harbors High School. I have one brother (who lives in St. Paul). I was active in school and church, involved in Job's Daughters, and played summer softball.

I went to college at the U of M Duluth campus, graduating with a business degree and minors in computer science and French. I hoped to stay in Duluth after graduating, but the job opportunities were better in St Cloud and the Twin Cities. St. Cloud turned out to be a great choice!

I met Joe (my husband) later on that first year, through a co-worker (although it took us a while to go on a first date and even longer to eventually tie the knot)! He grew up in Paynesville and was living in the St. Cloud area and working (and continues to work) in the printing industry.

The software division I was in at BSI was growing fast –and I was fortunate to be able grow with it. I was a project manager there (by then it had been acquired by Wolters Kluwer), when my employment ended after 15 years – due to a layoff.

That was terrifying at first - having my professional career come to a screeching halt, but that turned out to be blessing in disguise. I worked for a year at another company, but then I found my second career job – working at what is now Harvest Bank (with several branches throughout central MN). I am in charge of information security (and IT) - keeping the data secure. It definitely keeps me on my toes!

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

Joe and I had been attending FPC for a while, but we officially joined the church in 1996. We had gotten married the year before (at my hometown church) and prior to that we had done some searching in the St Cloud area, attending other churches before deciding on FPC. We felt very welcomed here (another shoutout to Robin Hasslen)! Joe was raised in the Catholic tradition. I grew up attending United Church in Two Harbors. It was formed when the Presbyterian and Methodist churches in town combined. The traditions from both were seamlessly blended for the most part, but one thing I distinctly remember was a sticking point – the Lord's Prayer. We would forgive our sinners for two Sundays and then we would switch and forgive our trespassers for the next two! This rotation was continual. (You could sure tell who attended church regularly)!

Share anything you wish about your family/children

Joe and I have two daughters (Leah and Jenna) that grew up at FPC and are members. Both graduated from St. Cloud Tech High School. Leah attended Southwest Minnesota State University (Marshall, MN) and graduated in 2020 with a degree in Social Work and a minor in Spanish. She became a Licensed Social Worker and also now has a

Who's Who in the Pew? (cont.)

School Social Work license. She lives in the area and loves her job working with kindergarteners as an Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist. (She is also currently coordinating the nursery schedule and working with campus ministry outreach here at FPC)! Jenna is starting her senior year at Concordia College (Moorhead, MN) and has just a couple classes left to complete a degree in English Writing and minors in Business and Spanish. She is currently interning at a technology company doing marketing and graphic design. It is an especially fun time to watch them spread their wings and start making their own way in life! I am also fortunate to have my mom (Pat Naysmith) living in the area – who is also a member at FPC.

Where is the most relaxing place you've ever been to?

As a family (sometimes along with grandparents or friends of the girls) we enjoy visiting a different MN lake most summers to do some fishing, swimming, and kayaking, along with board games in the evening and visiting the local town on a rainy day (or if we need a break from the sun). It is interesting getting to know the area, and it makes for a very relaxing vacation!

Besides the Bible, what books that you have read are among your favorites?

I enjoy a good mystery – books by David Baldacci and James Patterson top the list.

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

The 23rd psalm was a favorite of my grandmother's, The reading of it at her funeral really hit home for me. I've repeatedly come back to that during difficult times - it provides strength when I've needed it.

What are favorite pastimes/hobbies of yours?

I enjoy walking and tending to my flowers. And it's fun to get swept away on an adventure with a good book. TBD what activities retirement will open up!

What are some small things that brighten your day?

An early morning walk outside in the sunshine before work is a great way for me to start my day. Catching up with friends and family (outside of social media) helps ground me. And the girls got Joe and I doing the daily Wordle It's a fun way to stay in touch each day.

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

My dad loved kids – he was always cracking jokes, doing what he could to get a smile from them, and especially enjoyed being a clown with the Shriners. So I would love to host a family dinner and allow that next generation of kids to meet him.

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

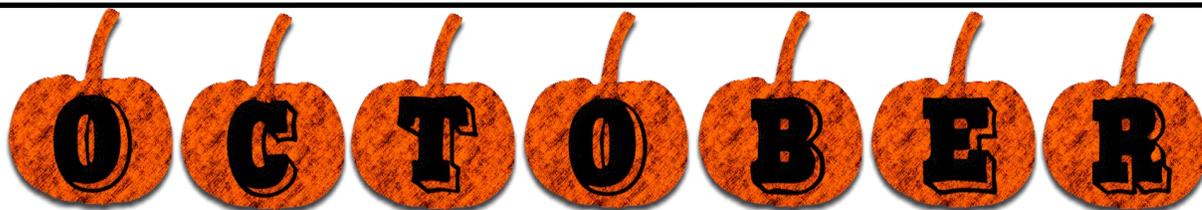
I'm an agate hound. My dad got me hooked when I was growing up. We would spend time walking the riverbeds, gravel pits, shores of Lake Superior, etc. searching for agates.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

Listed below is the Server Schedule for Sunday Worship. If you are unavailable for the assigned date, please swap with someone else scheduled that month. Also notify the office of any swaps, so that the Sunday bulletin can be updated.

Thank you for your service to the Church.

	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Ushers (2)</u>	<u>Greeter (1/2)</u>
Oct 2	Michelle Chan	Randy/Kathy Arnold	Karen Larson
Oct 9	Melinda Anderson	Jan/Bert East	Joe/Steph Jacobs
Oct. 16	John Bowden	John/Sharon Johnson	Stephanie Randolph
Oct. 23	John Pike	Dave Morreim/Don Watkins	Duane/Darlene S.
Oct. 30	Gene Williamson	Mike/Kim Tollefson	Ken Norine Schmitt



Joan Kosel	10/01
Joan Anderson	10/02
Audree Hedlund	10/02
Thomas Horn	10/02
Tim Matthewson	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
Al Hams	10/10
Jerry Hayenga	10/10
Rebecca Schoenhard	10/10
Barbara Hebert	10/11
Nancy Coleman	10/14
Harper Trautman	10/15



Willow Trautman	10/15
Zoey Kenning	10/16
Julia Owen	10/16
Erna Rohs	10/16
Leanne Becker	10/20
Thomas Eggers	10/20
Preston Owen	10/20
Matthew Nikodym	10/22
Stacy Stocker	10/24
Logan Donahue	10/26
Zayda Ewing	10/26
Rickie Espelien	10/27
Joel Hasslen	10/27
Marsha Elg	10/28
Terry (Teryl) Tenter	10/28
Vivian Coss	10/30
Heidi Ness	10/30
Faith Walters	10/31

Deacons Corner—Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

The Face of Hunger Today

No one can grow, maintain good health or reach their full potential if they are hungry. A surprising number of our neighbors are doing something they never imagined—visiting a



Working families totaling more than half a million people visit food shelves.

Children are more than 33 percent of the people you help.

Seniors are the fastest-growing segment of the population visiting food shelves.

Post-secondary students use food shelves at a time when they have very few resources.

You can help meet the need by donating to our Mother Hubbard's Cupboard during the month of October. A table will be set up in the east narthex where you can leave your non-perishable items. Items to donate include canned beans, chili, fruit, vegetables, soup, granola bars, dry cereal and boxed dinners. Staples such as flour, sugar and cooking oil as well as paper and personal care items are needed as well.

If you prefer to make a cash donation, please fill in the memo line indicating the money is for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. You can mail a check to the church or drop it in the collection plate.

Thank you for your support of this project to help feed central Minnesotans.

Class 101—Newcomer's Invitation

Interested learning more about our church? Interested in membership. Pastor Darin will be hosting Class 101 on Sunday, October 16 after worship. A light lunch will be served. Join us for meaningful conversation, lunch and how you can serve here at First Presbyterian.



The Mission Committee once again did a food distribution in September with the Hope Covenant Church. We had a great turnout and all the food was gone. We supplied makings for chili, including chili beans, chili seasoning and cornbread mix. The ground turkey was provided by Jenny-O. Our new mission member, Betty Payne helped with the distribution and we thank her.

In October, Hope is doing a celebration mostly for kids for Halloween. We are not participating for October. We will be back at it in November.

I want to take a minute to tell you all thank you and how much these people are appreciative and extremely grateful. Any questions, contact Darlene Scherbing.

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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!

OCTOBER 2022

SESSION

Pastor Darin Seaman, Moderator
 Bobbie Lampi, Clerk

Class of 2022: David Buchin, (Worship/Evangelism), Lynn Rae Olson (Worship/Evangelism), Lori Smith (Children & Youth), Tomoko Rebeck (Children & Youth)

Class of 2023: Tom Horn (Finance), Jeanne Duininck (Fellowship) Darlene Scherbing (Mission), Rodney Kadlec (Property)

Class of 2024: Joni Karl (Fellowship), Kim Tollefson (Personnel), Alvin Yu and Stephanie Randolph (Worship)

DEACONS

Class of 2022: Judy Hook, Peter Espelien, Jeannie Chu, Norine Schmitt, Marsha Elg, Linda Addicott

Class of 2023: Mary Jost, Betty Vigen, Sandy Johnson, Janis Cimperman, Barb Isaacson

Class of 2024: Gary Lenzmeier, Stephanie Merrell, Randy Arnold, Kathy Arnold, Carol Dirks