

The Tower

April 2025

HOLY WEEK

April 13—Palm Sunday (10:00 am Worship)

On the Sunday before His Death, Jesus sent two Disciples ahead, having them find and bring a donkey and its unbroken colt back to Him. Jesus sat on the young donkey and made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The crowds welcomed Him by waving palm branches in the air. See page three for information about the Palm Sunday potluck.

April 17—Maundy Thursday (7:00 pm Service)

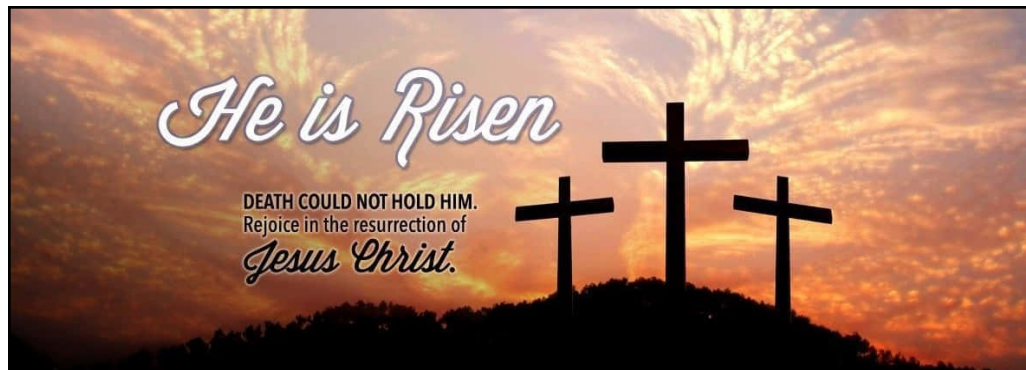
Jesus shared the feast of the Passover with His disciples. The Last Supper established Communion, sharing in the elements of bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice. Later, Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane and prayed in agony to God the Father. It was in the garden that Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by Judas Iscariot and arrested.

April 18—Good Friday (Online Only)

Jesus was wrongly sentenced to death by crucifixion. Soldiers pierced Him with a crown of thorns. Jesus then carried his own cross to Calvary where he was mocked and insulted as he was nailed to the wooden cross. After many hours, Jesus breathed His last breath and died. By dying on the cross, Jesus paid for the sins of all people. The youth will be recording a service. It will be on our YouTube channel.

April 20—Easter Sunday (10:00 am Worship)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event of Christian faith. Early Sunday morning, several women went to the tomb and discovered that the large stone covering the entrance had been rolled away. An angel announced Jesus' resurrection. See page three for more information about the Easter breakfast.



First Presbyterian Church

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

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

Recently the church received a bulletin from November 22, 1925. (1) The older bulletin was from our congregation. In this bulletin, you can find a treasure trove of historical information like how there were only eight presbyteries in the entire country. One can sense the importance of evangelism as the "need of the Gospel" is mentioned. The congregation was asked to pray for missionaries in Siam. The bulletin lists out the schedule for the week which is still included in today's bulletins. For those interested, Rev. Harold Baldwin was the pastor at this time while the Rev. E.V. Campbell was the Pastor Emeritus.

As I was reading this fascinating bulletin, I was reminded of how similar our bulletin is. There were traditional announcements, an order for worship (morning and evening), several requests of the congregation and scriptures that shaped the day.

As we approach this Holy Week we will read and reflect upon some of the same scriptures that shaped the people of this place in the 1920's. We do it every year. We begin Holy Week with palms and a procession. We move to the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday and conclude that night with a service of Tenebrae (Latin for darkness). On Good Friday, we'll share the texts again that highlight the passion and death of Jesus. On Easter, we'll celebrate the resurrection in unique and traditional ways.

When we gather for worship, we gather with the saints who have gone before us and the scriptures that celebrate a God who has overcome death for all time. This Holy Week I hope you will ponder the selected texts for each day and join us for the events that make this week a special reminder of God's love for us. Just like the people of the 1920's, we will utter those familiar and celebratory words, "He is risen. He is risen, indeed."

The grace and peace of Christ be with you.




Rev. Darin Seaman

April Sermon Titles

April 6

"Extreme Extravagance"

John 12:1-8

April 13 - Palm Sunday

"Blessed is the King"

Luke 19:28-40

April 20 - Easter

"They Did Not Understand"

John 20:1-18

April 27

"The Beauty of Doubt"

John 20:19-31

(1) The bulletin is now located in the historical room (Room 205).

2025 Easter Breakfast

The Fellowship Committee invites you to participate in this year's Easter Breakfast. Please mark your calendar to celebrate with family, friends or other special people dear to you. Each breakfast will include scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage, as well as your choice of muffin or croissant or hot crossed bun, and fresh fruit.

Please consider joining in this Easter Breakfast on **Sunday, April 20**. There are multiple opportunities to participate this year: we will serve Easter Breakfast **IN-PERSON BEFORE** the 10:00 AM Worship Service **ONLY**, there will also be a Curbside **TO-GO** option available after 10:00 AM worship service. We are requesting a \$10 donation for each Easter Breakfast. All proceeds will benefit Feeding Area Children Together (FACT). Please reserve your Easter Breakfast, by Monday, April 14. Reservations can be made by turning in the form to the church office or offering plate.

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

happy
Easter 2025
breakfast

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Quantity: _____

RSVP Option

In-Person	TO-GO
------------------	--------------

Muffin / Croissant / Hot Crossed Bun Choice

Banana Nut	Cinnamon Streusel
Blueberry	Croissant
Chocolate	Hot Crossed Bun

Fruit Choice

Apple	
Banana	
Clementine	

Palm Sunday Potluck - April 13 after Worship

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

Please consider bringing the following based on your last name:

- A-L - Main Dish
- M-Z - Desserts & Salads

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



Sunday School Schedule

April 6	9:00 a.m.	Regular Sunday School
April 13	9:00 a.m.	Regular Sunday School
April 20	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Easter)	
April 27	9:00 a.m.	Regular Sunday School
May 4	9:00 a.m.	Regular Sunday School
May 11	9:00 a.m.	Regular Sunday School
May 18	After worship	G.I.F.T. Sunday (Shine Your Light) <i>Last day of Sunday School</i>

Confirmation Sunday

Our current confirmation class—Nathan, Lauren, Ariel, and Sara—has been diligently studying with Pastor Darin and Paula Tift. They are set to be confirmed *on Sunday, June 8th*, which falls on Pentecost.

Please keep these students and their teachers in your prayers as they continue their faithful journey.



Summer Camp Registration

Visit Clearwater Forest's website at clearwaterforest.org to discover a variety of camps and retreats for all age groups offered throughout the year!



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

In March our G.I.F.T. Sunday centered on Easter. We created our own Easter baskets to share the joy of Easter! The baskets were for the kids but we also made some for kids to share on Easter Sunday here at church. Thank you to everyone who organized and participated in this event!



Who's Who in the Pew

A 240 acre farm near Earlham, Iowa is where my life began. I was born “Ruby Kathleen Ralston” in September 1941 – the first of 5 children. My father was a farmer. He also had a keen interest in Iowa railroads. For many years my father served as Clerk of Session in the Earlham Presbyterian Church. In addition to being very active in the life of our farm family, Mother was a Registered Nurse. She served others with a willing heart. My parents and all 4 grandparents were committed Christians. Family life was centered around our church, our school and our years in Iowa 4-H. Much time was spent with both sets of grandparents, our aunts, uncles and many cousins! Great memories!

Ruby Olson



In 1959 I entered nursing school at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines and graduated in 1962. My work experience was in medical – surgical hospital nursing. I especially enjoyed my time working in the office of a Des Moines physician. Larry and I met in 1961. He was the very handsome student pharmacist working part time in the IHL pharmacy. In June 1963 we were married in an evening wedding in the Earlham church. Following Larry’s 1964 graduation from Drake University’s pharmacy college, we moved to Quad Cities, Iowa & Illinois for a job in retail pharmacy. Erik, our oldest son, was born while we lived in Moline, Illinois. Our move to beautiful Minnesota was in September 1967. It was then that we became members of First Presbyterian Church in St. Cloud. Larry’s 38 years in the pharmacy at Saint Cloud Hospital were excellent years for our family. I was overjoyed to be a stay-at-home mom to our two sons. During those years I volunteered at their schools and in our church. Today our family includes our sons Erik and Andrew, our grandchildren and great grandchildren. Our 6 “greats” – what a blessing!

Over a period of 20 years Larry and I participated in 18 Elderhostel / Road Scholar travel – learning programs. Among my favorites were 3 programs in Hawaii and a weeklong program in Maryland on Chesapeake Bay. During those years I so enjoyed the adventure of travel. Also enjoyed learning about the history and culture of many areas in the United States.

Since a young age I have been a letter writer. The old fashioned letter which is sealed in a stamped envelope! I am happy with a good book and do lots of reading. Biographies, autobiographies, historical fiction and a well written novel are my favorites. In the past I have done needlepoint and Hardanger embroidery. My artist sister-in-law has taught me much about creative arts. Photographs, old and new, are among my treasures.

My day brighteners include the memory of hiking 3 times to the top of Eagle Mountain – the highest point in Minnesota. I enjoy a good walk with Larry in our beautiful neighborhood. Minnesota’s North Shore of Lake Superior is my happy place. Keeping in close touch with our many family members is high on my list.

Scripture means much to me in the joys and challenges of daily living. I am currently drawing strength and encouragement from Philippians 4:6-7 as written in The Message. “Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.”

One more thing-several years ago, while fishing Lake of the Woods, Ontario with Larry, our oldest grandson Steven and with our fishing guide, I landed a very large fish! To hear more, you will need to ask me. Another incredible fishing story was fishing for King salmon in Alaska’s Kasilof River! My previous fishing experience had been fishing for “sunnies” on a lake in Wisconsin with Larry and our young sons.

Pakistan Mission Update

The Mission Committee received funds from congregation members to sponsor a nursing student for one year at the United Christian Hospital in Lahore, Pakistan. Her name is Mugadas Pillu. She is in her first semester, interested in Operation Theater Technology. Of the funds received, there was some extra to be used toward sponsoring another student. An account has been set up for the nursing school. If you are interested in sponsoring a student in full or would like to contribute to sponsoring a student, please note that on your check or payment to First Presbyterian Church, memo: nursing student at UCH through Pakistan Christian Outreach Foundation.

Thank you. Mission Committee



One Great Hour of Sharing

March 5–April 20, 2025 Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. Our offering is received on April 13 or April 20. Banks are located on the bulletin table in the back of the Sanctuary.

DEACONS CORNER

Book of Order 2023-2025

G-2.02 DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE

G-2:0201 Deacon Defined

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture " is one of compassion, witness and service sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress." Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgement should be chosen for this ministry.

G-2.0202 Under Authority of the Session

Deacons may be individually commissioned or organized as a board of deacons. In either case, their ministry is under the supervision and authority of the session. Deacons may also be given special assignments in the congregation, such as caring for members in need, handling educational tasks, cultivating liberality in giving, collecting and disbursing monies to specific persons or causes, or overseeing the buildings and property of the congregation. Deacons shall assume other duties as may be delegated to them by the session, including assisting with the Lord's Supper (W-3.0414) A congregation majority vote may choose not to utilize the ordered ministry of deacons. If the congregation has neither a board of deacons nor individually commissioned deacons, the function of this ordered ministry shall be the responsibility of the ruling elders and the session.

Elected Deacons serve a 3 year term;

Class of 2025: Kari Ahles, Margaret Brooks, Karen Larson, Julia Owen and Duane Sherbing

Class of 2026: Michael Rutter, Gail Aalderks, Audrey Taatjes, Paula Tift and Mary Lease

Class of 2027: Jacki Benn, John Johnson, Sharon Johnson, Linda Sarff and Lori Smith

Our missions include: We currently visit 8 members of our Church family in their homes.

Home Communion: There are 2 members that receive home communion at this time.

Prayer Shawls: 2 members were gifted Shawls in February

Mother Hubbards cupboard: We collect food donations several times a year to donate to local food banks. Thank you for all of your donations during March.

Cards; 7 Thinking of You cards, 3 Sympathy cards and 4 Get Well cards were sent.

Submitted by Lori Smith



House/Holmgren Scholarships

The House/Holmgren Fund was set up to support people who are active members of First Presbyterian Church, Saint Cloud, in obtaining their college education. Students are eligible for scholarship support for four years of post-secondary education up to a Bachelor's Degree. The forms are available in the church office and on the church website (fpcstcloud.org). Applications are due in the office by April 15.



Thank You

Last month, Jeri's life among us came to an end as God called her home. We take comfort in the knowledge that she is now reunited with our daughter Tessa, her parents, and many who have gone before . . . and she is with Jesus!

Doug and I would like to thank everyone in this congregation for all the wonderful expressions of love and care that you have offered to Jeri and to us during this time, and for all the ways you went out of your way to share the love of Jesus. Your compassion and care met us at our point of need, and we are forever grateful!

Pastor Al & Doug Jergenson



2025 Spring Luncheon and Style Show

Hi friends - Spring is, well, springing here! March snow and April rain showers bring May flowers, hopefully. It is time to think about our annual Spring Luncheon and Style Show benefitting Anna Marie's Alliance on Saturday, May 10. Start picking out your lovely outfits, marking your calendars, and inviting your guests. Reservations will be available for both curbside pick-up and limited in-person options.

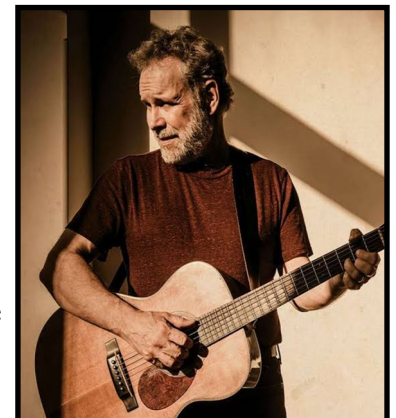
Any questions, contact Brenda Espelien at (320) 291-5084.



First Friday: April 4 @ 7 pm

John Gorka Tickets are \$30 at the door

Since he won a New Folk Award at Kerrville in 1984, John Gorka has spent three decades touring while also making more than a dozen recordings, solo and with Lucy Kaplansky and Eliza Gilkyson. When he's not singing his own songs, they're being performed by the likes of Mary Chapin Carpenter, Nanci Griffith, Mary Black and Maura O'Connell. We're happy to see John back on our stage--well, the First Presbyterian sanctuary--again.





Service Group – April

Chairs - Ken/Debbie Picha	Gail Aalderks/Mike Rutter
Donna Amore	Tom/Nancy Horn
John/Phyllis Bowden	Bill/Ronnie Janssen
Bob/Nancy Butter	Jim/Mary Jost
Richard Lawrence/Dorothy Paskvan	John Detra

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
6 Apr	Mary Jost	Jeanne Duininck/Gail	Jan Larson/Lois Buchin
13 Apr	Tamara Calhoun	Joe/Stephaine Jacobs	YOUTH
17 Apr	Randy Hammond	Don/Karen Ondracek	Lynn Rae Olson
20 Apr	Rhonda Siltman	Lynn Rae Olson/Dan Owen	Betty Payne Lynn Rae Olson/Carrie Raiche
27 Apr	Jackie Benn	John Pike /Mike Rutter Linda Bettison/Shauga Seaman	Kari Ahles
4 May	Rachel Buchin	John Bowden/Carrie Raiche	Randy/Kathy Arnold
11 May	Bob Butter	John Detra/John Hoffman	Jan Larson/Lois Buchin
18 May	Michelle Chan	Ryne Pentz/Lori Smith	Karen Larson

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.

Debbie Grittner	04/01
Michael Rutter	04/01
Raynee Bretherton	04/02
Dan Lund	04/04
Charlie Pentz	04/05
Jenna Jacobs	04/06
Barry Hample	04/10
Will Yu	04/10
Audrey Taatjes	04/11



Bailey Seaman	04/12
Susan Roberts	04/13
Lyn Varner	04/16
Kimm Anderson	04/18
Ron Elg	04/21
April Lund	04/26
Darla Neumann	04/26
Mary Lou Martens	04/27
John Scott	04/30

NAPS Update

NAPS (Nutritional Assistance Program for Seniors) is a program of the US Department of Agriculture, run through Second Harvest Heartland. This program offers seniors 60 and over a 45-pound box of non-perishable food and 2 pounds of cheese each month. As of March 1st, the program guidelines have been updated and the income requirements have been increased.

To be eligible for the NAPS program, a client must be 60 years of age. In addition, the client must meet the following income requirements:

Household of 1	\$1,957 per month or \$23,475 annually
Household of 2	\$2,644 per month or \$31,725 annually

If a client is above these income requirements, they may still be eligible. If a client is participating in the SNAP program, SSI, or Medicaid, they would qualify for the NAPS program (without meeting the income requirements). With a household of two, each member would be eligible for a box of food and cheese

Expenses such as groceries, utilities, etc. continue to increase in cost. If you know of a family member, friend or neighbor who may qualify for NAPS, please have them apply by calling Second Harvest Heartland at 651-401-1411. They can also contact me at 320-223-1059. Once paperwork is completed, the client is eligible for 3 years.

Karen Ondracek, NAPS Site Coordinator



Finances

February Contributions	\$31,971.00
February Expenses	\$33,389.80
Monthly (over/under)	\$681.20
Year to Date (over/under)	\$23,851.76

First Presbyterian Church
340 South 5th Avenue
Saint Cloud, MN 56301
Telephone: 320-251-8277
e-mail: admasst@fpcstcloud.org
web site: www.fpcstcloud.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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. - 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

You're invited to join a study that works for you!

APRIL 2025

SESSION

Pastor Darin Seaman, Moderator
Bobbie Lampi, Clerk

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)

Class of 2027: Jim Anderson, Brenda Espelien (Fellowship), Thijin Gatwech (Mission), Sandy Ross (Youth)

DEACONS

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

Class of 2027: Jacki Benn, John Johnson, Sharon Johnson, Linda Sarff, Lori Smith