

THE TOWER

First Presbyterian Church



First Fridays at First

Friday, November 6th
7:00 p.m.

Granite City Folk Society

Claudia Schmidt is an American singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist known for blending folk, jazz, blues, spoken word, and poetry with humor and emotional depth. Active since the late 1970s, she plays 12-string guitar and Appalachian dulcimer, has released over 20 albums, and performed widely in the U.S. and abroad. Her live shows are praised for storytelling, versatility, and engaging stage presence.

Annual Bake-Soup-Craft Sale

The Annual Bake - Soup- Craft Sale is coming up soon at FPC. It will be held in Fellowship Hall on the following dates:



Friday, Nov. 20 - 9:00 - 2:00
Saturday, Nov 21 - 9:00 - 2:00
Sunday, Nov. 22 - Following Worship

Details on Page 2.

Covenant Sunday with Potluck
Sunday, November 15th

Covenant Sunday is when we bring our gifts/pledges forward in response to God's love and blessings that we have received. We will have a potluck after Worship. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a main dish. If your last name begins with M-Z, please bring a side dish or dessert.



Church Staff

Pastor John
pastorjohn@fpcstcloud.org

Kristina Schaab
Administrative Assistant
admasst@fpcstcloud.org

Jullian Euteneuer
Music Director
jeuteneuer@fpcstcloud.org

Lora Hansen
Youth Director
lora.hansen@fpcstcloud.org

Brad Johnson
Facilities Coordinator

Patty Scott
Custodian

Don Ondracek
Assistant Custodian

Our Mission: "Bringing the Living Hope of the Gospel to the World by Knowing and Serving Jesus Christ"
Our Vision: "The Kingdom of God made known one sacred space at a time"

Annual Bake - Soup - Craft Sale

The Annual Bake - Soup- Craft Sale is coming up. It will be held in Fellowship Hall on the following dates:



Friday, Nov. 20 - 9:00 - 2:00
Saturday, Nov 21 - 9:00 - 2:00
Sunday, Nov. 22 - Following Worship



We ask for your support and participation. Please join us with your contributions of baked goods, soups (in 1 quart containers), and crafted items. We suggest that you price your crafts, but we'll put a price on food items. You may pick-up any unsold crafts Sunday or later.

Your donations to the sale can be left in the kitchen where a sign-in notebook will be left. Important to know about this year's sale is that a lunch will be served on Saturday. Another change is there will be no used Christmas items for sale. Thirdly, our Committee of four individuals could use volunteer help. Perhaps you could assist in setting up or taking down sale items on Thursday, Nov. 19. You could show us your creativity as displays could be different - maybe more artistic and/or functional. We'd love your input.

So try out some new recipes or old favorites. Together with your contributions and purchases, we can grow our proceeds for church building needs.
Bake Sale Committee

Salvation Army Bell Ringing



Saturday, November 21, 2026
Location: Lunds & Byerly's, St. Cloud
Don't miss this First Presbyterian TRADITIONAL holiday season event!
'Ring' solo or ask a friend to join you. Warm your HEART and Serve~
Sign up begins the first of November...reserve your ½ hour spot!
Submitted by Paula Tift

Dear Friends at FPC:
Thank you for the scholarship. I am grateful for your ministry in St. Cloud and the many ways you serve. Many people have impacted my time in Minnesota.

I am currently a Junior at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. I help to lead a women's Bible study at my house on Wednesday evenings. 15 girls attend the study each week and get to learn about the Gospel. We are part of a larger ministry called the Salt Netwo



I continue to ask for your prayers and for prayers for girls in my Bible study.
Thank you! Love, Bailey Seaman

FPC Directory Photos

Church Directory photos for members will be taken on November 1st, right after the service ends in the church Library. Whether you have joined the church recently or want an updated photo, come join us. There is absolutely no cost or obligation involved.



Pastor's Corner



Thanksgiving is the forgotten holiday of American fall season.
There, I've said it. Go into any store in October (as I write this it's in the middle of October...) and you will see Halloween decorations and Halloween candy...and in many stores they've already gotten Christmas stuff out! On November 1st...BOOM – it's Christmas season!! There might be a few nods to the Day of the Dead on November 2nd, and there will probably be a sale on turkeys and yams towards the end of November, but almost no one talks about Thanksgiving. If we do, its probably about who is playing football that day and whether or not the Black Friday sales are bleeding over into Thursday (which, as we all know, they are...).

So I'm here today to defend Thanksgiving as a holiday – a holy day, if you will, and to bring some attention to gratitude. Regardless of the historicity of the "first Thanksgiving" and various other historical issues with our forefathers' actions, Thanksgiving and the harvest are a time to slow down and process and think about what we have been blessed with over the last year. Really, always – God is watching over us and sending us good things. We may not see them or something may get in the way and we might make bad decisions...but God is always providing God's love for us. We are never abandoned, never alone. Never forsaken.

Thanksgiving, literally "giving thanks" in Greek is the word ευχαριστία. In Latin letters it would be eucharistia. Look familiar? It should – the eucharist, the Lord's Supper – is something that we celebrate every month. During the service we give thanks for God sending His Son to live and die and live again for us so that we might also live forever in God's presence. Everything we have and everything we are is because of God.

Giving thanks to God is fundamental to the Christian faith and tradition. How we live our lives, how we make decisions and how we give are all wrapped up in giving thanks to God. Part of stewardship, part of thanksgiving as a practice, is remembering what God has done and is doing and giving back. Paying it forward would be another way of putting it.

So in the hustle and bustle of November, filled with Election Day and Covenant Sunday and Thanksgiving – find some time to just breathe and give thanks. And remember to give back.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor John



C.O.R.E

Christ Centered. Outreach, Relationships, Encouragement





We kicked off our first C.O.R.E Sunday class with 9 students and three new families joining the program. Please make sure to greet the new families and invite the parents to sit with you during service or ask them to join you during fellowship when they are waiting to pick up the children. At Sunday School kick off, only the young families came to the campfire. These outreach events are for the entire congregation. Everyone is invited and wanted! I would like to stress the importance of church members attendance. The purpose of the event is to showcase our church (YOU are the church) and to let God's love shine onto others through us. Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven". We cannot accomplish this goal if we are not present.

Last month we also had our first G.I.F.T. with Cherrywood South. The kids enjoyed playing games, coloring, showing gymnastic skills, painting nails, visiting and enjoying a snack with the elderly individuals who live there.

SAVE THE DATE Dec 19th will be our Christmas Party outreach.

CHANGE IN PROGRAMMING: Please note that due to volunteer shortage and the importance of children attending communion with their families we will not be having C.O.R.E classes on the first Sunday of any month. We will have classes all other Sundays unless otherwise noted.

Teachers for the month are:
2nd week: Lori Smith and Paula Tift (need 1 helper)
3rd week: Jeannie Duininck and Lora Hansen /Helpers: Julia Owens and Lauren Lenzmeier
4th week: Lori Smith and Lora Hansen/ Helpers: John Johnson (need one helper)

Upcoming Events

G.I.F.T will be on the 15th of November from 1 till 3. We will be making Thanksgiving center pieces with our friends at Cherrywood. Our family social will on the 18th of November. We will be going swimming. Please watch the Monday message and email for details.



Community Meal

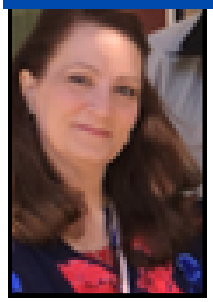






Family Game Night





Music Ministry News- November 2026

🎶 Music Group Rehearsal Schedules 🎶

- All music group rehearsal schedules are posted in the Campbell Room and on the bulletin board outside Jullian's office.
- Please stop by the Campbell Room and pick up your schedule today!

We are grateful for each of you and for the time, gifts, and joy you share through music. May God bless our music ministry as we come together to worship and serve Him through song! 🎶❤️

MUSIC GROUP	REHEARSAL TIME	REHEARSAL DATES	SUNDAY SERVICE
Chancel Choir	5 - 5:45 pm	November 4,11,18,25	November 1
Crusade Choir	6 - 6:45 pm	November 4,11,18,25	
Bell Choir	7 - 7:45 pm	November 4,11,18,25	November 8
Closer Walk	4:30 - 5:15 pm	November 5,12,19,26	November 29
River of Grace	5:30 - 6:15 pm	November 5,12,19,26	TBD

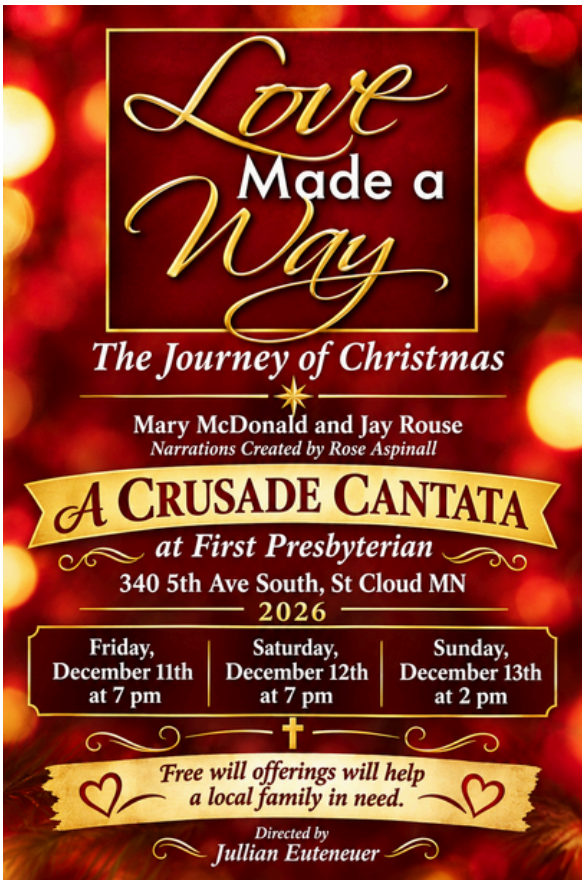
Special Music Rehearsals
Any additional rehearsals for special music will be announced as needed.
Thank you to everyone who shares their time and God-given gifts through our music ministry. We are blessed by the many ways music helps us worship, grow together, and share God's love with our congregation and community!



🎶 There's Still Time To join Our Ecumenical Crusade Choir❤️

Do you love to sing, enjoy uplifting Christian music, wonderful fellowship, and the joy of sharing God's love through song?
Then we have a place for YOU!

We warmly invite you to become part of our Crusade Choir family!
No matter where you are on your musical journey, you will be welcomed into an amazing group of caring, faith-filled people who love the Lord and find great joy in making music together!



Cantata Dates:
Friday, December 11th at 7 pm
Saturday, December 12th at 7 pm
Sunday, December 13th at 2 pm

Everything you need will be provided, including:

- Music books and a folder
- CDs or listening links to help you learn the music
- A pencil for all those musical notes!
- Plenty of laughter, encouragement, friendship, and Christian fellowship!

Come experience the **blessing**
of lifting our voices together
in **praise and sharing**
the love of Christ through music.

There is still time,
and **we would LOVE to have you join us!**

For more information,
please call Jullian at 320-291-7425.

Come for the music, stay for the fellowship, and leave with a heart full of joy!
🎵 **To God Be the Glory!** ❤️

Report – Mission to New Richland, MN – Missions Without Passports

Early on the morning of Saturday, September 19th, a flood of water produced by 9 inches of rain overnight caused an uncontrolled deluge which left much of the City of New Richland paralyzed. Residents of the Nursing Home were evacuated just in time using pontoon boats, and 6 feet of floodwater there destroyed everything but pictures hanging on the wall above the water's crest. People woke to find their basements flooded, cars underwater, and backed-up sewer lines pouring effluent backwards into their homes.

We heard about it on the news,. The Mission Committee and volunteers from our church decided to do what we could to help the people there whose lives had just been turned upside down.

Two members from 1st Presbyterian Church in Mankato joined the team, and lodging was arranged by them through neighbors of theirs who provided a beautiful home for our team to stay in during the week, free of charge. The City Administrator of New Richland introduced us to another team of 4 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief workers. We teamed up with them to do the work of going into homes, cleaning out ruined and water-soaked furniture, appliances and personal effects from various rooms in the houses. We pressure washed all surfaces, and sprayed them down with a chemical called ShockWave, which killed any remaining bacteria and mold. We were able to complete 7 houses between Monday and Friday, October 12-16. The people served were SO GRATEFUL for the help!

One elderly couple, the Johnsons, told us that they had been struggling with medical issues (she with weekly cancer treatments, and he with an immunological disorder) which left them with little physical or emotional strength left, and that they had prayed to God, asking God to help them… and then came the flood…and they were about to give up hope, "until God sent us YOU volunteers, who came to help, and even provided the plastic tubs we needed, but couldn't afford, to meet our recovery needs!" They said that the experience restored their faith in God and caring volunteers!

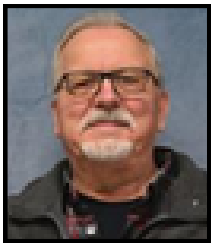
Another lady went to work in her kitchen, and baked everyone delicious banana bread as a simple "Thank You!" to all who showed up to help!

The little restaurant in town refused to accept our money for breakfast or lunch, stating that a couple of residents in town were insisting on covering the cost of all the meals of all the volunteers who came to help! We left a donation, in place of the cost of our meals, for the local Food Shelf.

Our Mission Team returned Friday evening with lots of pictures, wonderful memories, new friendships, and a reaffirmation that our various talents and gifts were all able to be used by God to make a difference restoring healing, health and hope to troubled lives!
Thanks be to God, and to everyone who supported our volunteer work with your prayers and with your financial gifts! They made a real difference for good!

Pastor Al Jergenson

Who's Who in the Pew?



Curt Gullickson

Peace and glad tidings to all! My name is Curt Gullickson. I am writing this expose on behalf of myself and Laura Lee - my wife of 58 years. I was a police officer by trade (Chief of Sauk Rapids Police Department) and Laura Lee worked as a PERA with elementary-aged special needs children in the Sauk Rapids school district. We hail from Cloquet, MN but have lived in Sauk Rapids/St. Cloud for the past 26 years. We have been Presbyterian (on and off) for about 36 years with a couple of bouts of Lutheranism mixed in.

When we moved to the St. Cloud area in 2000, we joined Living Waters Lutheran Church (about 3 blocks from our home). We were very active: singing in the choir, helping with youth activities, caroling at nursing homes at Christmas, helping with vacation bible school, serving on the Church Council, serving as voting Synod conference delegates, etc. We ultimately left LWLC in 2023 and joined FPC. Age, health concerns, and family commitments have forced us to severely limit our involvement in church activities.

We have two children. Our daughter, Kim, was born in Asmara, Ethiopia (now Eritrea) when I/we were stationed there with the U.S. Army Security Agency. We lived there for 18 months after which time I was sent to South Viet Nam for a year. Kim hated school growing up but is currently very successful working with students with behavioral problems in the Cloquet school district. On the other hand, our son, Kris, has a PhD in Educational Psychology and works for the State of Minnesota in a mental health facility. We have one grandchild, Grace who, unlike her mother, loves school and is currently studying to be an accountant.

It is the small things in life that brighten our day: a flock of geese flying low overhead, the rare Goldfinch that visits our bird feeder, petting and feeding the deer at the Fawn-Doe-Rosa deer park in St. Croix Falls, WI, being able to offer assistance to a physically challenged person, making someone smile, the black sky filled with bright sparkling stars. Beauty and Grace are present around us - every day. Music has always been a source of enjoyment and prayerful meditation for us both.

My favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13. It has served us well during times of sorrow and times of jubilation. We are both "people-pleasers" by nature and have, on occasion, bitten off more than we can chew only to regret our actions later. One very important lesson it has given us is the power and courage to say "NO".



Stewardship

“God Owns It, We Manage It.”

This year, our stewardship theme is "God Owns It, We Manage It." We want to root our giving in a simple but powerful truth: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it belongs to Him" (Psalm 24:1). Every gift we have, our finances, our time, our talents, even the ground we walk on, was never truly ours to begin with. It all belongs to God. This truth invites us to reconsider not just how much we give, but why we give: not out of obligation, but out of recognition that everything already belongs to the One who first gave it to us.

This past year, our members have been very generous in giving of their time, talents and treasures. This has allowed us to grow in our various areas within the church. Please prayerfully consider your pledge and how it might assist in the needs of our congregation and community. This year on our pledge card, we have added areas within our church where members can give of their time and talents: music, youth, worship support, etc. Please consider expanding your talents in a new area.

We have set Sunday, November 15th as Covenant Sunday, when we bring our gifts/pledges forward in response to God’s love and blessings that we have received. We will have a potluck after Worship to rejoice in fellowship and celebration. If you are unable to join us on Sunday, November 15th, please bring or mail your card to the church office.

God’s grace to you,
Karen Ondracek



	Sept.	Year to Date
Revenue	$ 26,551	$ 331,533
Expenses	$ 29,871	$ 292,512
Over/Under	$ (3,320)	$ 39,021



“Deck the Halls” as we prepare for his coming

Come join us as we lovingly prepare God’s sanctuary for the blessed season of advent. Together, we will adorn our chuirch with beautiful greenery, creating a welcoming place of worship as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of our Savior’s birth.

We will be decorating the sanctuary on Tuesday, November 17th at 1:00 p.m.
Many hands make light work



Service Group -October

Chairs: Paul/Jeanne Duininck & Al Jergenson

Linda Baldwin	Mark Scholar/Connie Sandmann
Chris/Karen Chopp	Steven/Wendy Shaler
Ron/Marsha Elg	Zoey Weaver
Kit Henkemeyer	

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.

Date	Worship Leader	Usher	Greeter (s)	Open/Closer Door
Nov 1	Randy Hammond	Mike/Kim Tollefson	Betty Payne	Mike/Kim Tollefson
Nov 8	Carrie Butter	Phil/Jeannie Chu	John Detra	Jacob Priest
Nov 15	Jackie Benn	John/Sharon Johnson	Ken/Norine Schmitt	Jackie Benn
Nov 22	Stephanie Merrell	Lynn Rae Olson/Carrie Raiche	Leroy/Paula Tift	John Johnson
Nov 29	Brenda Espelien	Mike Rutter/Gail Aalderks	Mike Rutter/Gail Aalderks	Paula/Leroy Tift
Dec 6	Mary Jost	John Detra & John Hoffman	Mike/Kim Tollefson	
Dec 13	Rhonda Siltman	Jeanne Duininck & Dan Owen	Nancy Coleman	
Dec 20	Tami Calhoun	Randy/Kathy Arnold	Linda Bettison	
Dec 24-Thursday	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Dec 27	Bobbie Lampi	Joe/Stephanie Jacobs	Lori Smith	





Shannon Cabrera	11/01	Ryne Pentz	11/10	Lori Smith	11/21
Bruce Grosland	11/02	Brady Neumann	11/12	Bella Brandt	11/25
Duane Scherbing	11/02	Sarah Schoenhard	11/12	Judy Huls	11/25
Jan Shaver	11/04	David Baston	11/13	Joni Karl	11/25
Floyd Fautsch	11/07	Tomoko Rebeck	11/14	Jan Watkins	11/26
Michael Salo	11/07	Jeannie Chu	11/16	John Bowden	11/27
Miguel Cabrera	11/08	Jeri Olson-McCoy	11/16	Michelle Donaghue	11/30
David Morreim	11/08	Darlene Scherbing	11/16	Catherine Hilbrich	11/30
Sawyer Kadlec	11/10	Laila Welsh	11/16		

First Presbyterian Church
340 South 5th Avenue
Saint Cloud, MN 56301
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Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



First Presbyterian Church Bible Studies

Tuesday 9:00 a.m.
Men's Bible Study

Thursday 1:00 p.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!

SESSION

Bobbie Lampi, Clerk

Class of 2026: Tom Horn (Finance), Marsha Elg (Worship), Bob Butter (Worship), Norine Schmitt (Personnel)

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

Class of 2028: Rhonda Siltman (Mission), Jacob Priest (Property), David Pennertz (Finance), Charlie Pentz (Nominating)

DEACONS

Class of 2026: Michael Rutter, Gail Aalderks, Paula Tift, Mary Lease, Carrie Butter

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

Class of 2028: Kim Tollefson, Mike Tollefson, John Detra