

The Tower

May 2025



First Presbyterian Church

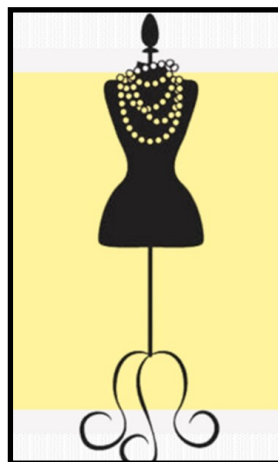
340 South 5th Avenue
Saint Cloud, MN 56301
Telephone: 320-251-8277
www.fpcstcloud.org

Spring Luncheon and Style Show (May 10)

You are invited to our **Spring Luncheon and Style Show** on **Saturday, May 10th** in the church's main entrance. Proceeds will benefit Anna Marie's Alliance.

"VIP all access passes" must be reserved in advance.

\$20 = Limited In-person seating at 11:30 am
\$15 = Curbside Pick-Up TO-GO! 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm



Passes are now available at First Presbyterian Church in the office, in the West Narthex, before/after service on Sundays or by contacting Brenda at (320-291-5084). Space and passes may be limited.

First Friday Concert (May 2 at 7 pm)

Charlie Parr is an American country blues musician. Born in Austin, Minnesota, he spent part of his childhood in Hollandale before starting his music career in Duluth. His influences include Charlie Patton, Bukka White, Reverend Gary Davis, Dave Van Ronk, Mississippi John Hurt, and his self-professed "hero," "Spider" John Koerner. He plays a Mule resonator, National resonator guitar, a fretless open-back banjo, and a twelve-string guitar, often in the Piedmont blues style. Tickets are \$30 at the door or online at granitecityfolk.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

The St. Cloud Rotary Club I belong to recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. We reminisced about our experiences over the last several years. We rejoiced with long-time members and the service that the club has accomplished. The club was instrumental in the Lake George renovations, helped organize Pathways 4 Youth, and still partners with ISD 742 to provide preschool for many in need (Preschool for Success). Those are just a few of the things the club has worked on. We laughed at the stories and mourned those who were no longer with us. We reveled that we have one member of the club who is a fourth-generation member. We cherished the time we had around the tables and knew it was a holy time together.

I couldn't help but think about the parallels between the church and this Rotary Club. We share many of the same opportunities and challenges. We sing when we gather. We desire what is best for our city. We lift up those who need help. We value community and relationships. We believe that our neighbor is across the street and one who lives far from us.

The challenges are also similar. In the Rotary, we sometimes struggle with people in the club. People complain that newer people aren't stepping up to help. We also need new members. Whenever I hear Rotary members tell me about challenges, I usually look at them and say, "Welcome to my world. The church has the same challenges."

While there may be similarities to our local service club. The church is quite different. We gather for one greater reason and his name is Jesus Christ. We desire to discern together what God in Christ is already doing in our community. We seek to know this Christ and to make him known. We want to embody the love Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount. We hope that Christ will bring about a new, resurrection life in the world. And so, the church gathers in the season of Easter to say what no service club can ever say, "He is risen!"

May the grace and peace of the risen Christ be with you.




Rev. Darin Seaman

May Sermon Titles

May 4
"Follow Me!"
John 21:1-19

May 11
"Healing Waters"
2 Kings 5:1-14

May 18
"Even to the Gentiles"
Acts 11:1-18

May 25
"Come Over"
Acts 16:9-15

Our very own Don Watkins is currently the longest-tenured member of the club.

Plant - Grow - Share

Have an extra row to spare in your garden this summer? Local food shelves will welcome your produce. Here's how you can help out. Bring your produce to one of the following pantries/Area Food Shelves.

Little Falls (includes Royalton)

Morrison County Food Shelf

912 1st Ave SW, Little Falls (320) 632-8304

Drop off: Tues and Wed 8 - 12, Food shelf open Tues and Wed, 10 -12; Thurs, 5-7

Rice

Old Village Hall

30 E Main St, Rice

Drop off: Contact John/Peggy to meet you (320) 393-2915

Food shelf open first Thursday of first full week 3 - 5:30.

Sartell

Celebration Lutheran Church

1500 Pine Cone Rd N, Sartell

Drop off: Mon - Thurs 8 - 4. Food cart put out Mon-Thurs 8 - 4, Fri 8-1

Food shelf open first and third Tuesday 10 to noon

Sauk Rapids

Living Waters Lutheran Church

1911 4th Ave N, Sauk Rapids

Drop off: Tuesdays, starting at 8. Contact Terry (320) 224-7375 or saukrapids@aol.com

Food shelf open Tuesday 10 to noon

St. Cloud Catholic Charities Food Shelf

157 Roosevelt Rd, Suite 100 Drop off: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9-3; Wed 9-6

Deliver to Door D Food Shelf - information at cstcloud.org

Notes for all Food Shelves: All fruits and vegetables welcome! Feel free to call (320) 229-4560, for alternative drop off arrangements



Sunday School Schedule

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>



Summer Camp Fundraisers

Help us send our children to **Clearwater Forest Summer Camp**, where they'll grow in faith, friendship, and fun surrounded by God's beautiful woods and waters!



Flower Certificates from Pattison Farm

Available after worship or through the church office. Many thanks to **David Morreim** for his generous donation to make this fundraiser possible!



Brat Sale at Cashwise in Waite Park - June 6th & 7th

Stop by for a tasty lunch and support our campers!

Volunteers needed -- We'd love your help! Sign up after church.

Palm Sunday



Sunday School



Congratulations Graduates!

- Peter Espelien, from Rose - Hulman, Institute of Technology
- Andrew Giese, from Sauk Rapids-Rice
- Bailey Seaman, from Sauk Rapids-Rice
- Will Yu, from St. Johns University



You're Invited to "Shine Your Light" Sunday !

The FPC Children, Youth, & Family Committee warmly invites you to our 2025 **"Shine Your Light"** celebration, marking the last day of this year's Sunday School. We'll celebrate this special day as our **May G.I.F.T. (Generations In Faith Together) Sunday**.



Join us as we honor the milestones and growth of each child in our program. Whether or not you're part of Sunday School, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our young people and celebrate their faith journey together!

The spirit of the "Shine Your Light" is to be together: To celebrate the shining moments of our children's year and bless each other and ask for God's continued presence.

Date: Sunday, May 18, 2025

Time: 11:15 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

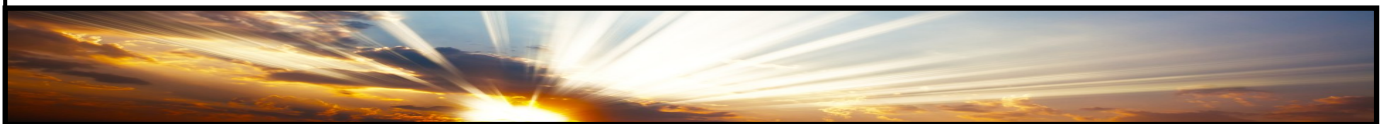
Place: Fellowship Hall at FPC

A light brunch will be served—bring the whole family!

Feel free to invite friends and neighbors to join the celebration. All are welcome!

Please contact Tomoko if you have any questions.

*"Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven" Matthew 5:16 KJV*



Who's Who in the Pew

Leah Jacobs

Tell us about yourself

My name is Leah Jacobs. I am 27 years old and have been going to First Presbyterian Church (FPC) my entire life. I grew up in the St. Cloud area, graduated from Tech High School, and attended Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, MN for my undergraduate degree. I started with the intention of getting an elementary education degree but switched to social work after my first year.

I graduated with a bachelors in Social Work and a minor in Spanish in 2020, and that was some of the craziest, stressful, and lonely times - trying to finish college internships amid the shut down COVID-19 world. Due to the college campus shutting down and losing my job, I moved home with my parents. Since being back, I have worked for the YMCA, Head Start, and now currently as an elementary Mental Health Specialist in the St. Cloud School District - all jobs centering around supporting kids and families.

I have been in my current position for three and a half years now and am hopeful to have my contract renewed for another school year. This summer I will be starting an online master's program for Trauma-Informed Clinical Social Work. In my free time, I enjoy going to Zumba; watching reality shows; hanging out or going to Karaoke with coworkers; cooking, baking and trying out new recipes.



How long have you been attending FPC?

I have been attending First Presbyterian Church since I was a baby. My parents first started attending FPC in the early 1990's. I was baptized here as a baby, a nursery toddler myself, had my first communion, went to Sunday School and was confirmed at FPC. I also attended Youth Group and that was some of the most memorable years. I have explored a couple other churches but always find my way home to FPC.

At FPC, I have been a wee-worship/Sunday School teacher, College Ministry Assistant and committee member, nursery worker, and currently nursery coordinator. I love working with God's youngest members.

Share anything you wish about your family/children.

As you may know, my parents Joe and Stephanie Jacobs also attend FPC along with my (maternal) grandmother Pat Naysmith. I have one younger sister who currently lives in Fargo, ND. I live alone and don't have any pets or children at this time.

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

1 Corinthians 16:14 states, "Let all that you do be done in love,"

I have always been taught and led to do things with love. I lead my life in love. Love for learning. Love for helping others. Love for doing things that bring me joy.

Love for being with others. As Mahatma Gandhi says, "Where there is love, there is life." If you're doing things to just go through the motions, what is the point? Find things you love and focus on them.

Proverbs 11:27 states, "Whoever diligently seeks good finds favor, but evil comes to one who searches for it."

This Bible verse can be applied in many ways - with people, perspectives, and experiences. Everyone has flaws and you can easily pick them out. But it takes great strength and bravery to find the good in others and focus on and emphasize it. If you focus on the negative things that are happening that is all you will see. But shifting your mindset to see the positive helps to shift your focus. It's easier said than done but it's helped me tremendously.

What are favorite pastimes/hobbies of yours?

One of my favorite childhood memories is tagging along with my mom on walks on the country roads by our house to look for agates. Now that I live on my own, I have started my own agate collection.

I have always been a creative/artsy person. I've been known growing up to draw and color, make string bracelets, and most recently picked up crocheting. I've got the dishcloths down and am working on a couple hats, and a doll blanket currently.

One of my most favorite pastimes growing up has been attending Youth Group at FPC. I met some really cool supportive people, and it was a space I felt safe to ask questions about and discover more of my faith. I was allowed to be vulnerable and accepted however I showed up. We volunteered together, went on mission trips, did some fun events like ValleyScare, and were just able to be some highschoolers learning and growing in faith together. I really enjoyed the one year I went to Clearwater Forest and waiting until my senior year to go is one of my biggest regrets. It's a beautiful place that speaks to my soul.

What are some small things that brighten your day?

Small things that brighten my day: hugs from students or their shared accomplishments; the sun shining bright; seeing an owl design of any kind; my beloved daily Bubbl'r drink; greetings from loved ones; getting a letter in the mail.

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

If I could have dinner with anyone, I would have dinner with my late Grandpa Pete. He passed away unexpectedly three months before I was born so I did not get a chance to meet him (but we do share the same middle name). Everyone who knew him says he was a funny guy who loved children and we would have gotten along well. He sold insurance and volunteered as a clown for Shriners International. At dinner, I would ask him about his life growing up, about all the people in my life he knew, and any advice he would share.

DEACONS CORNER

Springtime brings warmer weather and the desire to get outside and start doing “something.” For golfers that means “hitting the links.” Fisherman prepare to “wet the line.” For gardeners the plan is “to plant a seed.” I like to imagine myself to be a gardener, but possibly I fall more into the category of plant experimenter. You know, pushing the growing zone and to go where no man (or woman) has gone before.

This year is the canary melon. Sharon purchased this yellow fruit two years ago and we saved the seeds. I planted seed two years ago and ended up with a fruit that would not turn yellow-no matter what I tried. Turns out we also saved acorn squash seeds that year! At any rate, this year, I planted about 8 seeds and two sprouted! One survived. We will see if we get yellow canary melons this year-or something else.

As Deacons, we are charged to help, visit, and to serve the church. One of the things we get to do is visit some of our members who are homebound. It’s kind of fun. I’m not sure which one of us (visitor or “visitee”) is planting seeds of faith, hope, and love. But we have fun doing it.

Two verses in the Bible come to mind... Faith of a mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32) and (Luke 8:11) states the seed is the word of God. Luke 8:5-18 shares a familiar parable. I will leave it up to you to look those verses up. The verses tell me to sharpen my listening skills so that the seed falls on good ground. I wonder how God can use me to help out. Can I have the faith of a tiny mustard seed, that a stem and leaves will sprout? Can I hold the word of God close to my heart and spread the gospel to the next generation? With God’s grace, I pray that He can work through me and our church. And that we can have some fun doing it.

As for the canary melon—we’ll see how the experiment goes this year!

-- Written by John Johnson

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

The Deacons send a sincere **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated to the Mother Hubbard's Cupboard food drive in March. The March 2025 food drive received \$456 in cash donations, and almost 500 pounds of food and personal care products. The donations were divided evenly between three organizations: Veteran Resource & Enrichment Center, Homeless Helping Homeless, and Promise Neighborhood.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE in easing hunger in our community!

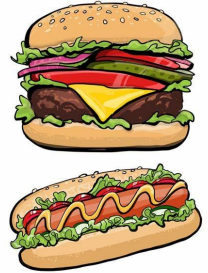
Health Care Equipment

Did you know that the church loans out walkers, wheelchairs, crutches and other equipment? We have an assortment of used health care equipment for you and others to borrow and return. Please call the church office if you would like to borrow some equipment.



Community Dinner

- **Wednesday, May 14th** (Hamburgers and Brats)
- Dinner is served from 5:00 pm-6:30 pm
- A sign-up poster is located in the Main Entrance at the church
- A free-will offering supports the FPC Youth Programs



Home Delivered Communion

We are in need of additional volunteers for Home Delivered Communion. If you're interested but have never participated in this mission, training will be available. How does it work?

Once each month volunteers provide their availability for delivering home communion. Then a team of two volunteers is assigned for each homebound person who requests communion. Visits may occur soon after our church service on Sunday morning, or Sunday afternoon, or at a time during the week that is agreed upon by the participants.

The visit begins with a brief time of chatting and learning about each other, if not already familiar, and finding out if there are any needs or concerns. Volunteers are provided with a communion service liturgy that is followed during the communion service. The entire visit usually lasts 20-30 minutes.

A wonderful benefit of Home Delivered Communion is the fellowship that occurs during the visits. Communion recipients and servers engage in conversation and share news from the church and community. Through this simple Mission we all grow together in the love of Christ.

Please contact Pastor Darin or Linda Addicott, a Deacon, or the church office if you'd like to volunteer!



Celebration of Life for Tom Addicott

A celebration of life will be held on **July 29th** for Tom Addicott. The service will start at **11:00 am** and a luncheon will follow the service in Fellowship Hall. The burial will be at the Veterans Cemetery in Little falls at 2:00 pm.

Service Group – May



Chairs - John Hoffman Duane/Darlene Scherbing
 Joan Anderson Mark/Mary Giese
 Laura Berg Yao/Noelie Hounkpati
 Kristin Brandt Larry/Ruby Olson
 Carol Dirks Ken/Norine Schmitt
YOUTH

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
4 May	Rachel Buchin	Linda Bettison/Gail Aalderks	Kari Ahles
11 May	Bob Butter	John Bowden/Carrie Raiche	Randy/Kathy Arnold
18 May	Michelle Chan	John Detra/John Hoffman	Jan Larson/Lois Buchin
25 May	Ryne Pentz	Ryne Pentz/Lori Smith	Karen Larson
1 June	Randy Hammond	Randy/Kathy Arnold	Linda Bettison
8 June	Nancy Horn	Phil/Jeannie Chu	Jan East
15 June	Gene Williamson	Joe/Stephanie Jacobs	Jan Larson/Lois Buchin
22 June	Linda Bettison	Ron/Karen Larson	Betty Payne
29 June	Carrie Butter	Dan Owen/Jeanne Duininck	Leroy/Paula Tift

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.

Jilleen Yogerst 05/07
 Ali Roberts 05/08
 Wendy Shaler 05/08
 Rachel Buchin 05/13
 Luci Hample 05/15
 Shauna Seaman 05/15
 Brynn Seaman 05/19
 Cathi Brockway 05/20
 Don Ramsey 05/20



Kadoon Andzenge 05/22
 John Eggers 05/24
 Kelsey Corrigan 05/25
 John Johnson 05/28
 Jan Larson 05/29
 Randy Hammond 05/30
 Kristin Brandt 05/31
 Don Watkins 05/31

Home Stretch Homebuyer Education

Thinking about buying a home? Take the first step by attending a two-session Home Stretch homebuyer education class. You'll gain insights into the homebuying process from a certified Home Stretch educator, along with experts in mortgage lending, real estate, title services, and home inspection. You will receive a certificate of completion, which may be required by your lender for loan programs.

Class Dates: June 11 & June 18, 5 - 9 pm

Sept. 11 from 5 - 9 pm & Sept. 13 from 8 am - Noon

Nov. 5 & Nov. 12 from 5 - 9 pm

What will you get out of this class?

- How to qualify for a mortgage
- How to find the right home for you
- Free dinner



Location:

Catholic Charities

157 Roosevelt Rd, Ste. 200

St Cloud MN 56301

Cost: Free

Register: financialcounseling@CCstcloud.org



Finances

	March	YTD
Total Revenue	\$31,046	\$117,293
Expenses	\$33,217	\$95,612
Net (over/under)	\$ -2,171	\$21,681

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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!*

MAY 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 (Youth), Brenda Espelien (Fellowship),
Thijin Gatwech (Mission), Sandy Ross (Fellowship)

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