

The Tower

November 2022



Covenant Sunday

On Sunday, November 13 we will receive our Covenant Sunday pledges preparing for 2023. Please bring your covenant card to worship with you. If you are unable to attend in person, you may mail your card to the church office. We are grateful for your generosity during 2022.

First Presbyterian Church

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

Loaves and Fishes Community Dinner

We share in a community meal on Wed., Nov. 16. We serve from 5:00-6:30pm. A variety of soups will be offered. Sign up to bring a soup, bread or dessert. Bring someone to share the meal with you.



Church Staff

REV. DARIN SEAMAN
Pastor

DON FORTNER
Music Director

MARY NOTHNAGEL
Administrative Assistant

PATTY SCOTT
Custodian

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, Nov. 6.

Be sure to set your clocks back one hour on Sunday, Nov. 6.



Pastor's Reflections

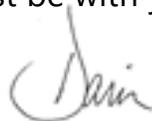
When the election cycle comes around, I am sometimes asked by church members why the church doesn't support candidates. "After all, other churches clearly do." "We have a candidate in the church who is running for office. Shouldn't we support her?" "One of the signers of the Declaration of Independence was a Presbyterian minister." (1)

My answer is always apolitical which doesn't appease my friends on either side. Don't get me wrong. I hope that you are actively involved in voting and supporting the candidates you choose. I hope you are engaged in the issues of our day. I hope that you understand the candidates you are selecting for office. But, I do not think churches should offer campaign advice from the pulpit or in publications. I think we get easily sidetracked by focusing on a human being rather than the Triune God. The gospel has political implications but it is not partisan.

It is my belief that Jesus is neither a Republican nor Democrat. The moment we put God in a proverbial ballot we alienate half the population from hearing the good news about Jesus Christ. The gospel transcends political parties, lobbyists, and special interests. I am reminded of Billy Graham's legacy when it comes to this area of ministry. Rev. Graham was heard because he appeared to care about all people without regard to politics.

On Tuesday, Nov. 8, I will cast my vote at a church near my home. It will be an opportunity to show my support for the civil, political process we have in this country. On Wednesday, Nov. 9, I will email my congratulations to my friends seeking office, win or lose. I will remind her that she remains in my prayers just as you all are. I am grateful for candidates who are willing to serve and seek a greater good.

The grace and peace of Christ be with you all.



Rev. Darin Seaman



November Sermon Titles

November 6

"No More Questions"
Luke 20:27-38

November 13

"Shout Joyfully"
Psalm 98

November 20

Christ the King Sunday
"No Ordinary King"
Luke 23:33-43

November 27

First Sunday of Advent
"Just Do It"
Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14

(1) John Witherspoon was a Presbyterian minister who later became the president of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University).

Don Fortner



Music Director

Email: donfortner@fpcstcloud.org

The season has turned to Fall. Crisp mornings and warmer afternoons, chilly nights as the quilts and comforters make their way back out from the summer shelves of storage. The November days are now filled with anticipation of the coming holiday season with family gatherings and special events. The most special event of all is every Sunday when the community of First Presbyterian gathers in worship, prayer and song. No matter the season outside, the season

inside the church is a season of contemplation, growth and renewal. What a great gift to have the fellowship of faith and the weekly reminder that we are a part God's family.

The great music energy continues to spin around at First Presbyterian. The Chancel Choir led the musical worship on October 2, 16 and 30. On Sunday October 23, the Lower Town Project led musical worship again for the first time since May, 2022. Thank you choir and band members for your contribution of music leadership.

November 2022 Music Schedule for Worship at First Presbyterian

November 6 - Dr. Marcelyn Smale Organist / (Daylight Savings Time Ends)

November 13 - Guest Organist / Pianist (The Lower Town Project is leading worship at Stockholm Lutheran Church)

November 20 - Festival Choir and Men's Quartet - Dr. Marcelyn Smale, Organist (Christ the King Sunday)

November 28 - Lower Town Project (First Sunday of Advent)

First Friday's at First - November 4 First Presbyterian Church and Granite City Folk Society will host Pat Donahue, an extremely talented guitarist. He is one of the players who put Minnesota on the map as the home of terrific guitarist-composers: winner of the National Fingerstyle Championship (1983), mainstay of the Prairie Home Companion house band, preserver of traditional blues, creator of amazing guitar arrangements of swing and jazz standards, writer of touching and very funny songs.

"I first heard him on the radio and got upset. Then I heard him in concert and got more upset. He thinks harmonically, improvises beautifully, and writes. If you're a guitar player, he's going to haunt you. . ." -Leo Kottke

(Volunteers for Ushering and Hosting are still needed for this and other First Fridays programs.)

December 9 and 10 at 7PM and December 11 at 2 PM, the Saint Cloud ECUchoir (formerly the Crusade Choir) will present "Swing into the Spirit of Christmas." This collection of traditional Christmas music is arranged in the style of 1940's swing and jazz.

Reach out with ideas, information and questions to donfortner@fpcstcloud.org

Sunday School

Reminder that elementary-aged children should be picked up from their classroom at 9:50am

- **November 6 at 9am** – Classroom
- **November 13 at 9am** – Classroom
- **November 20 at 9am** – G.I.F.T. Sunday in Fellowship Hall
Watercolor Postcards - no experience needed!
RSVP by 11/18: torebe11@hotmail.com
- **November 27** – No Sunday School due to Thanksgiving holiday weekend



G.I.F.T. Sundays

G.I.F.T. stands for **G**enerations **I**n **F**aith **T**ogether and it is for EVERYONE – not just for Sunday School students and their parents!

All generations of our church family can gather together to learn and build relationships across all ages and backgrounds.

These interactions create wonderful memories and connections!

**Have you ever heard the phrase “It takes a village to raise a child?”
Join in the village raising the next generation of followers of Jesus!**

- **Nov 20th at 9am** - Watercolor Postcards—back by popular demand
RSVP by 11/18: torebe11@hotmail.com for supply planning purposes
No artistic background required. Come and be amazed by what you can create!
- **Dec 18th at 9am** - Activity not yet confirmed
- **Jan 29th at 9am** - Activity not yet confirmed



Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes Community Meal formerly known as “Wednesday Night Suppers” - new name, same great event!



Wednesday, November 16th, serving 5:00-6:30pm

On the menu: **Warm your soul with a variety of SOUPS**

Sign up to bring a soup, bread or dessert

With Much Gratitude

Thanks to Rachel Buchin & Jeannie Chu and all their helpers for planning/facilitating the Spooky Spaghetti Supper as our Loaves & Fishes Community Meal in October, along with fun Halloween activities!

Also, thank you to our Sunday School Teachers for volunteering their time to plan lessons/activities, shopping for supplies and their overall commitment, being here with our kids to help them grow in their faith. Please include our Sunday school families and our Sunday School teachers in your prayers.

Give thanks for continued support from all congregation members who are filling in and taking on extra tasks while we are without a Youth Director. Please pray for our church to find the right candidate as the search for a Youth Director continues.

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.

Update from the Fellowship Committee

Greetings. It's been over two years since the Fellowship Committee has used monthly service groups to help with Church activities. Beginning 2023, we are going to be starting them up again. Our goal is to only call for your help during your assigned month. Duties would include...provide cookies for Sunday fellowship, help in the kitchen after worship, help with Wednesday *Loaves and Fishes* meal, special events or funerals.

As Paul wrote in Romans 12:13 "*Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality,*" we ask that you support the Fellowship Committee and Church. We thank you in advance for your service.

Blessings,
Joni Karl and Jeanne Duininck



Upcoming Bake, Soup & Craft Sale

Our kickoff to winter has arrived! The Bake-Soup-Craft committee hopes you will participate in this annual activity.

No lunch will be available this year, however both Friday and Saturday there will be coffee and rolls/muffins for sale.

Bring a friend and join us on the following days:

Friday, November 18th from 9am—3pm

Saturday, November 19th from 9am—3pm

Sunday, November 20th—after worship service

Instructions for participation below:

Baked Goods	Soup	Crafts
- Packaged or Plated	- 1 qt. plastic container	- Mark with suggested price
- Drop off in kitchen	- Label contents	- Drop off in Fellowship Hall
- No need to price	- Place in kitchen refrigerator	

We could not do this without YOU!!

Finances

September Contributions	\$25,705.94
September Expenses	\$24,353.89
Over/under	\$ 1,352.05
 YTD over/under	 \$56,584.81



My Help Comes from the Lord

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

Psalm 121: 1-2

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 church, community and world. 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 that we have received. Please join us on November 13th.

- Stewardship Committee



When we look at the September ending balance of \$56,584, this figure can be misleading. The Youth Director position is open. The Youth Director is a critical position and will remain in the budget until it is filled. Also, the hours for the maintenance position are less than the budgeted hours. These items account for \$31,000 of the ending balance for September.

There are budgeted maintenance projects that haven't been completed. Two of the projects are steam traps and boiler room ceiling. The Property Committee continues to work on these. (The manse demolition is not part of our operating budget.) These projects are approximately \$12,000.

After adjusting for the above items, our September balance would be closer to \$10,000.

- Karen Ondracek
Finance Committee

Who's Who in the Pew?

Rhonda Siltman



Tell us about yourself:

I was born in Minneapolis, where I lived for my first five years. We then moved to the Foley area. I graduated from Foley High School and went on to St. Cloud State. My very first job was at Coborn's in Foley

Being from a small town, I felt like I needed to leave to see what was out there. I've had many jobs such as a nanny in New Jersey, working retail in Minneapolis, a live theatre stage manager in St. Cloud, a food co-op general manager in Pittsburgh, and my very favorite, a

manager at Borders Books in Boston. After all that traveling, I moved back to St. Cloud in 1998. And now I work for Coborn's again! I have been a Category Manager at the corporate office for 11 years, after 13 years in the stores.

How long have you been attending First Presbyterian?

This is my favorite story! Last fall my friend Brad Ufer invited me to have lunch with he and a friend, Pastor Darin. Brad enjoys introducing people he thinks may have things in common. Darin and I both have kids that attended Sauk Rapids High School. We had a lovely lunch, after which Brad took me on a tour of the church. After an hour with Darin, and walking into the beautiful sanctuary, I knew I was in the right place. Unbeknownst to Brad, I had been looking for a church to attend. He had no idea at all! But God did!

I grew up vaguely Catholic but hadn't attended church in decades. A couple years ago, I started on a new faith journey. I tried one other local church but it wasn't a good fit. I came to First Presbyterian on the first Sunday of Advent and haven't left! When I walked in that Sunday, the first person I met was Mary Lease. I told her I'd never been there before and she promptly took me by the elbow and led me over to a small group. And there I met Duane and Darlene Scherbing, Jerry and Betsy Hayenga, and Kim Tollefson. I was struck by how friendly and welcoming everyone was! I knew this was my church home.

I joined the church on March 6, 2022. I have also joined the Mission Committee, thanks to the urging of Darlene. I love helping to distribute food at Hope Covenant as part of our mission work.

Share anything you wish about your family and children:

My husband Scot and I have one son, Porter. He is 21 years old and a senior at SCSU, majoring in Sports and Recreation Management. He's now a game-day operations intern with the Minnesota Vikings. He has also coached Sauk Rapids Middle School girl's tennis. After graduation, he hopes to get a job in player personnel with a professional sports team.

Where is the most interesting place you've been to and why?

Every year it is some place new and interesting as we take a family trip to a different ball park. Besides Target Field, we've been to Milwaukee, Chicago (both parks), Detroit, Kansas City, St. Louis, Denver, Pittsburgh and Boston. It was especially fun taking my son to see places where we lived before he was born.

What are some favorite hobbies or pastimes?

Besides reading, my favorite thing to do is walk in cemeteries, especially older ones. They are full of history and beautiful headstones and usually great trees. I also love writing and collecting tiny things.

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

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

I love to read so I have many favorites, usually what I've read most recently. I love all of Nadia Bolz-Weber's books, she was an important part of my rediscovering Christianity. Patti Smith's "Just Kids" is my favorite book. I love biographies of women artists and writers. Fiction is my go-to at bed time and "The Five Wounds" by Kirstin Valdez Quade is a newer book that is an absolute gem.

What is a Bible verse that holds deep meaning for you?

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4: 6-7

This was part of a daily prayer app I used in the beginning of my journey and it always brings me peace and reminds me that God is taking care of me.

What are some small things that brighten your day?

Talking to people and getting to know them makes me happy. Being there for my friends and making them smile brightens my day more than anything. Every morning and evening I use the Lectio 365 app to start and end my day with God. It is just ten minutes each time but it makes all the difference in my outlook.

Share anything unique that others may not know about you.

I write a bi-weekly column for the Sauk Rapids Herald. I started in June and I love it. I am humbled by the opportunity to share my thoughts with others.

Food Distribution

On **Nov. 19th**, the Mission Committee along with Hope Covenant Church will be distributing food to 80 families that live around our church and need a helping hand. We are planning a Thanksgiving meal including a whole chicken, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes and pumpkin. The Backstreet Bakery will provide bread. The chicken will be provided by a very generous donation from a friend of the church. We thank them for their generosity.

The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall of our church from 10:00 am until 11:30 am. If you would like to take part in this event, we invite you to make a freewill offering to 1st Presbyterian Church with a memo to food distribution and place it in the offering. Any questions contact Darlene Scherbing.



SAVE THE DATE - Christmas Tea TO-GO

Saturday, December 3rd, 2022

Proceeds benefit Place of Hope, Kids Hope Shop

Details to follow in the upcoming Sunday bulletins.

Advent Decorating

Join us on Sunday, November 20 as we prepare for Advent by putting up decorations for the coming season. There are opportunities for a lot of people and we would appreciate your help for about 45 minutes in the sanctuary.



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>
Nov. 6	Shauna Seaman	Mary Lease/John Bowden	Jeanne Duininck
Nov. 13	Dick Andzenge	Ryne Pentz/John Hoffman	Leroy/Paula Tift
Nov. 20	Randy Hammond	John Pike/Duane Scherbing	Shauna Seaman
Nov. 27	Darlene Scherbing	Dan Owen/Gail Aalderks	Kari Ahles
Dec. 4	Rickie Espelien	Randy/Kathy Arnold	David Morreim
Dec. 11	Rachel Buchin	Linda Bettison/John Detra	Stephanie Randolph
Dec. 18	Tamara Calhoun	Mike/Kim Tollefson	Duane/Darlene S.
Dec. 24	Ryne Pentz	John Pike/Mary Lease	Jan Larson
Dec. 25	Brynn Seaman	John/Sharon Johnson	Landry Seaman

Shannon Cabrera	11/01
Duane Radeke	11/01
Bruce Grosland	11/02
Duane Scherbing	11/02
Jan Shaver	11/04
Floyd Fautsch	11/07
Brandon Hample	11/07
Michael Salo	11/07
Miguel Cabrera	11/08
David Morreim	11/08
Sawyer Kadlec	11/10
Ryne Pentz	11/10
Brady Neumann	11/12
Sarah Schoenhard	11/12
David Baston	11/13
Serj Kenning	11/14



Tomoko Rebeck	11/14
David Roberts	11/14
Jeannie Chu	11/16
Jeri Olson-McCoy	11/16
Darlene Scherbing	11/16
Laila Welsh	11/16
Lori Smith	11/21
Bella Brandt	11/25
Judy Huls	11/25
Joni Karl	11/25
Jan Watkins	11/26
John Bowden	11/27
Shawn Moorhouse	11/27
Emily Coss	11/30
Michelle Donaghue	11/30
Catherine Hilbrich	11/30

Experience the Spiritual Practice of Contemplation

Our relationship with ourselves and others offers ample opportunities for love and acceptance. At times, we might long for a fuller connection. A key component in connection is understanding how our thoughts and feelings effect all levels of communication. Contemplation is an ancient spiritual practice that allows you to be present with your thoughts and feelings in a sense of non-attachment, even curiosity. It doesn't get rid of thoughts, rather, it engages them through guided imagery leading into a quieting of mind and spirit where Presence can be known. Join us on **Sunday, November 13th** from 11:20 am -12:20 pm for a contemplation experience. Spiritual Director, Jamie Deering will lead. No need to register. Call Jamie if you have questions: 360-335-5595. She'd love to chat with you!



Deacons Corner

Salvation Army How did those Red Kettles and Bell Ringing Come About



As deacons, we help raise funds for the Salvation Army. I believe you are familiar with the red kettles and bell ringing that occurs during the Holidays. This is a tradition that our Deacons participate in every holiday season.

To volunteer, you can call Laura Douvier at 320-257-7437.

Salvation Army was founded in the slums of London in 1865 by William Booth, a lay Methodist preacher. His was a ministry of "soup, souls, and salvation."

The red kettle tradition began in San Francisco in about 1890, when a Salvation Army volunteer promised a thousand Christmas meals to the poor. He set out a red lobster pot to collect donations, the success of which is carried on today.

The bell ringing started about 1900 when a 16-yr-old, Amelia Kunkel, noticed well-dressed people walking by the red pots! So, she bought a small bell and started to ring it. This too, was a success and a tradition that continues today.

All donations stay local, whether received in a red kettle or donated online. The list of Salvation Army programs and service areas is too long to list here.

I hope I have motivated people to at least think about volunteering to Ring the Bells!

Church Photo Directory



The photo directory online is "photo only". However, I do print a church directory on a quarterly basis, which includes address, phone and email. For any member wishing a hard copy, stop in at the church office and pick up a printed directory.

Mary
Church Office

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. - 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!

NOVEMBER 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