

# The Tower

March 2025

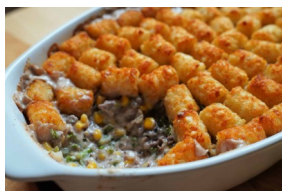


## First Presbyterian Church

340 South 5th Avenue  
Saint Cloud, MN 56301  
Telephone: 320-251-8277  
[www.fpcstcloud.org](http://www.fpcstcloud.org)

### Community Meal March 19th

Please join us and bring a friend as we enjoy our favorite hotdishes. We will begin serving at **5 pm** and serve until **6:30**. A good will offering will be collected and all proceeds will go to our Youth Program.



### Ash Wednesday Service

Join us as we mark the first day of Lent. Service will be on March **5th** at 7pm. The use of ashes symbolizes humility, mortality, and the need for cleansing and forgiveness.

In **Genesis 3:19**, God reminds us, “By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

### Lent Study Opportunity

A Lenten Bible Study called The Final Days, presented by Pastor Matt Rawle, is being offered for members and churches of Minnesota Valleys Presbytery. It will be held on Sunday evenings beginning on March 9th at 6:30 p.m via Zoom.

The four New Testament Gospels aren't the same story, but they offer the same resurrection hope. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John devote most of their story detailing Jesus' last week in Jerusalem, all highlighting Jesus' triumphant entry into the city, the suffering and humiliation of the cross, and the empty tomb come Sunday morning, but the stories they tell aren't quite the same. Books are not required.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Mark Ford at [fox-fire1691@yahoo.com](mailto:fox-fire1691@yahoo.com) or at 218-232-8131 (voice and text).

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86926049131>

### 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

Why doesn't the Presbyterian church do altar calls? I was asked this question by someone new to our church. This individual came from a tradition where altar calls were a regular practice of their worship experience.

Presbyterians don't have altars. An "altar" is usually understood to refer to a raised structure on which sacrifices are offered, or incense is burned in worship. The word "altar" first appears in the Bible in Genesis 8:20. Presbyterians believe that Christ's sacrifice on the cross brought an end to any kind of ceremonial sacrificial system. So, first and foremost our tradition does not have altars in the church. Instead, we utilize communion tables which point to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The practice of altar calls – calling people forward after a sermon to make a public confession of faith – gained prominence in the 20<sup>th</sup> century primarily through the evangelistic ministry of Rev. Billy Graham and others. The altar call itself is not biblical. Nowhere in the Bible does anyone come forward during a worship gathering. Yes, Jesus invited people to follow him but it does not appear that this invitation was based in a worship setting.

Some believe the altar call can be a manipulative practice preying on people's emotions. Others believe it is a faithful way of responding to the gospel. In our tradition, we practice an "Invitation to Discipleship" where individuals can decide on their own what they believe and how they can best demonstrate their faith. This invitation is offered in a variety of ways through the sermon, a prayer, and by inviting people forward after the worship service. I contend the entire worship service is an invitation to respond to the grace of God.

The grace and peace of Christ be with you.




Rev. Darin Seaman

### March Sermon Titles

**March 2**  
"Mountaintop Mystery"  
Luke 9:28-36

**March 9 -**  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
"Preparation"  
Luke 4:1-13

**March 16**  
"On My Way"  
Luke 13:31-35

**March 23**  
"Repentance"  
Luke 13:1-9

**March 30**  
"Elder Brothers"  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## Easter Flowers Orders

Orders are being taken for Easter flowers to adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Please complete the order form (with payment). Forms are also located toward the back of the sanctuary. Orders will be taken until **March 6th**.

### Type and Cost:

Easter Lily - \$14.50

Daisy Mum - \$17.50

Blue Hydrangea - \$29.00

Pink Hydrangea - \$29.00

White Hydrangea - \$29.00

Tulips - \$14

Bulb Garden - \$17.50

Daffodils - \$14.00

Hyacinth - 14.00

Cyclamen - 18.00

Begonia - 18.00

Calendiva - 18.00



Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Payment/Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Flower type \_\_\_\_\_

Drop off at the office or place in the offering plate.



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

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



**Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

After worship

Meet in the Adam & Eve room  
(across from the restrooms downstairs).

*All AGE!  
Everyone is  
welcome!*

### **Create Easter Baskets!**

Join us for a fun and creative multi-generational Sunday School event as we celebrate the spirit of Easter! You'll have the opportunity to make your own Easter basket —perfect for a friend, grandkids, neighbors, or even for yourself! We'll provide all the supplies, including baskets and a variety of goodies. As we come together in fellowship, let's reflect on the blessings of this season and share the joy of Christ's love with those around us!

At February G.I.F.T. Sunday, we created our own decorative signs and cherished fun fellowship across generations!

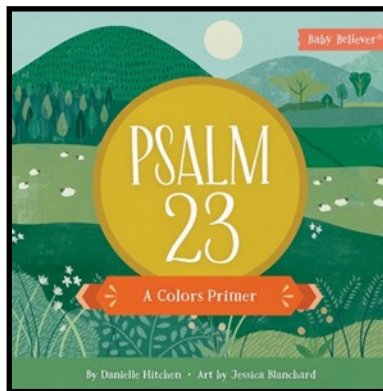
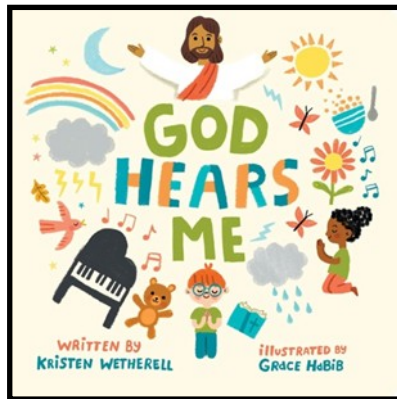


## Sunday School Schedule

<b>March 2</b>	<b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	
March 9	9:00 a.m.	Regular Sunday School
<b>March 16</b>	<b>After worship</b>	<b>G.I.F.T. Sunday (Easter gifts)</b>
March 23	9:00 a.m.	Regular Sunday School
March 30	9:00 a.m.	Regular Sunday School
April 6	9:00 a.m.	Regular Sunday School

### New Children's Books have been added!

Explore the latest additions to our collection of children's books in the Faithful Friends' area (at the back of the sanctuary), PreK Sunday School room, and the church library. These beautiful books are perfect for reading with your loved ones—and many are great for adults too! Feel free to check them out and enjoy the stories together!



### Thank you for your donations!

We raised \$1,057 in total!  
(Eagles \$380, Chiefs \$377, Commercials \$300)

Our youth have chosen to support two important causes: F.A.C.T. (Feeding Area Children Together), which helps students in central Minnesota, and the Huskies Food Pantries, which provide food assistance to St. Cloud State University students. The funds raised will be donated to these organizations to help fight hunger in our community!



## Who's Who in the Pew

### Patty Scott

#### Tell us about yourself

I was born and raised in St. Cloud. I'm retired now and have been married to John Scott for almost 46 years. We have 3 kids: 2 boys and 1 girl. We also have a grandson who will be 11 years old at the end of this month. I've worked in retail and restaurants. I have been the Assistant Sexton (janitor/custodian) for FPC for the past 6 years. I am also self-employed. For the past 10 years, John and I have been doing numerous events every year from May through December, where we sell my cookies, bars and caramels, his tumblers, spices, laser engraved items and 3D pieces. My small bakery business is called Mrs. Goodcookies. We usually like to travel to Mexico twice a year.



#### How long have you been attending FPC? Before that, where have you attended?

I've been coming to FPC since 1993. We did go to a couple of other smaller churches years ago and one of them was because we had moved down to Apple Valley (2007-2009) because of a new job for me. We moved back to St. Cloud at the end of 2009 and have been coming here ever since. Before becoming Presbyterian, I was raised Roman Catholic and attended St. Paul's Catholic Church, north St. Cloud. That's also the church John and I got married in and "Moe" Stevens helped officiate along with Fr. Francis Britz.

#### Share anything you wish about your family/children

Our oldest son, John (Jr)/"Johnny" is a film maker and won an award for a screenplay he wrote. He currently works for Blattner Energy out of Avon, MN and does a lot of traveling across the country. Daughter-in-law, Jody, works for the school district 742 and teaches at Lincoln Elementary in St. Cloud. Our daughter, Jamie, works in Wayzata at a restaurant (6Smith) as a server. She graduated from La Cordon Bleu (Minneapolis/St. Paul) in 2002 and has been a Sous Chef and Executive Chef at many different restaurants down in the cities since then, but she makes more money being a server right now. Son-in-law, Jason, has been an Executive Chef for many years at restaurants all over the Twin Cities and currently works at a restaurant in Waconia. Our youngest, Peter, also works as a server down in Burnsville at Clive's Roadhouse and sells his 3D items on Etsy. Our grandson, Zack, is a four-time World Karate Champion. He has been all over the country plus Ireland, Portugal and Cancun doing tournaments and got his black belt in 2023. He has an incredible number of trophies, medals and certificates all over his room. He has been doing karate since he was 4.

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

Psalm 23. Also, James 4:2, "You have not because you ask not."

**What are favorite pastimes/hobbies of yours?**

Traveling. Just getting in the car and getting out of town.

**What are some small things that brighten your day?**

Talking to or texting my kids.

**If you could have been a cast member of any TV show past or present, which one would you pick to be on, and why?**

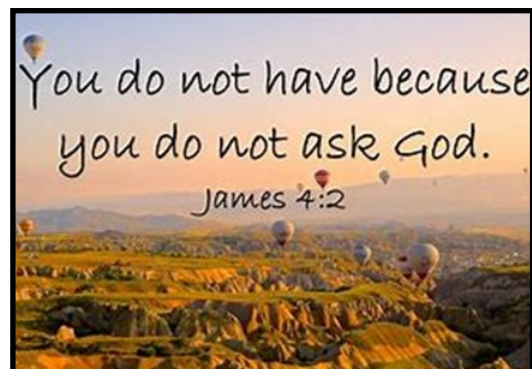
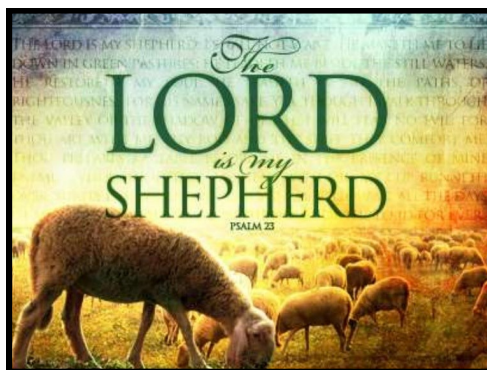
Happy Days. One of my all-time favorites. I liked that it was set back in the 50's and it was a good wholesome comedy.

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

Red Skelton. Not sure why exactly, I just really like the man. He was so fun to watch when I was a kid. He seemed so personable and genuine.

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

In 2006-2007, I went back to school at the age of 48. I attended St. Cloud Technical College and studied Culinary Arts. Towards the end of the school year, my teacher gave me a bit of a push to enter the state cooking competition for Culinary Arts students from all over Minnesota. And even though the temperature on the oven went from 350 to 450 somehow (hmmmm), I finished in first place in the state and I still have my gold medal! After graduation, I went to work at a few restaurants down in the cities and ended up being a Pastry Chef before retiring from working in restaurants altogether.



## DEACONS CORNER



### Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

March brings with it the promise of Spring, with more daylight and sunshine, warmth, and the hope of nature's continued abundance! It is also a time for the opportunity to share in that abundance with our neighbors and community. The Deacons will once again present Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. This is our local drive to gather food items throughout the month of March, which is also Minnesota FoodShare Month!

The Feeding America website states that 1 in 13 Minnesota adults face hunger. This is even worse for those children facing the issue – young bodies trying to grow and learn in an ever more complicated world. Matthew 25:35 states: “For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home.” This is your invitation to give, so consider helping with donations of non-perishable, new and unopened food items (please check expiration dates) and / or monetary donations (put Mother Hubbard's Cupboard in the memo line of your check).

A table will be set up by the main entrance to the sanctuary, where you can leave much-needed items such as: peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, soup, pasta, dry cereal, boxed dinners, soap, shampoo, paper towels, facial tissues, etc.

This is a twice yearly Deacon sponsored event to provide for those in need, helping such organizations as Anna Marie's, Place of Hope, Promise Neighborhood, Veterans Resource and Education Center (VREC), etc. If you have helped by giving in the past, we the Deacons thank you.





## 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 ([fpctcloud.org](http://fpctcloud.org)). Applications are due in the office by April 15.

## Library Update

Do you need a good book to read? Sitting and chatting with a friend? Or just enjoying the sun coming through the stained-glass windows? Well then, check out the library and see the changes that have been made. Whether you like mystery, romance or a great adventure, you should be available to find a book. Need some inspiration or motivation? You can find that too. Stop in, grab a book and enjoy a good read. When you have finished, return it and grab another.

Thank you to those who have helped update the library and/or donated books.

## First Friday: March 7th at 7 pm

### Ruckus in the Bearbrush

Ruckus in the Bearbrush is the trio of Adrian Rainer (guitar, banjo), Emma Nistler (Autoharp, whistles), and Paul Imholte (fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar), and the ruckus in question is the sound of the music that has come out of the Appalachians, along with its assorted cousins: ballads, laments, dance tunes, Celtic melodies, even sea shanties. It's a deep dive into the music that became "Americana."

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$20.



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**1 Peter 1:3**



## Service Group – March

<b>Chairs - Sharon Johnson</b>	<b>Vonnie Swanson</b>
Linda Bettison	Leah Jacobs
Nancy Coleman	David Morreim
Judith Hook	Lynne Osteraas
Sandy Johnson	Dale Swanson
John Johnson	

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
<b>2 Mar</b>	Ryne Pentz	Randy/Kathy Arnold	Linda Bettison
<b>5 Mar</b>	Bob Butter	Lynn Rae Olson/Carrie Raiche	n/a
<b>9 Mar</b>	Carrie Butter	John Bowden/John Detra	Alvin/Michelle Yu
<b>16 Mar</b>	Stephaine Merrell	Phil/Jeannie Chu/ & YOUTH	Joe/Stephanie Jacobs
<b>23 Mar</b>	Bobbie Lampi	Ron/Karen Larson/John Pike	Lynn Rae Olson
<b>30 Mar</b>	Bailey Seaman	John Hoffman/Duane Scherbing	Leroy/Paula Tift
<b>6 Apr</b>	Mary Jost	Jeanne Duininck/Gail Aalderks	Jan Larson/Lois Buchin
<b>13 Apr</b>	Tamara Calhoun	Joe/Stephanie Jacobs	Youth
<b>20 Apr</b>	Rhonda Siltman	Lynn Rae Olson/Dan Owen	Betty Payne
<b>27 Apr</b>	Jackie Benn	John Pike/Mike Rutter	Lynn Rea/Carrie Raiche

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.

Kit Henkemeyer	03/03	Lois Buchin	03/20
William Janssen	03/04	Kari Ahles	03/23
Margaret Brooks	03/05	Sean Hornibrook	03/23
Randy Arnold	03/08	Cathy Anderson	03/25
Debbie Picha	03/09	Michelle Chan	03/25
Randy Wickmann	03/09	Lynn Miller	03/25
Alan Espelien	03/10	Donna Radeke	03/25
Rodney Kadlec	03/11	Jackson Randolph	03/26
Tammy Brook	03/12	Steve Isaacson	03/28
Leah Jacobs	03/13	Pat Triplett	03/30
Lynne Osteraas	03/13	Linda Addicott	03/31
Lonny Wild	03/15	Robin Hasslen	03/31
John Hoffman	03/16	Carole Pike	03/31
Gary Lenzmeier	03/16	Jon Tufte	03/31
Sam Eggers	03/18		
Beth Adamek	03/20		



## Stewardship Update



### Capital Loan Status

Thank you for your generosity. We have completed our third campaign and all pledges have been completed. We had several families that remembered our church with memorials for a loved one. Thank you. In 2024 we were able to lower our principal balance by \$62,000. We looked at various options for reducing our loan. We decided to not run another campaign at this time. Our hope is that our members will continue to support this program without running another campaign. If you are able to continue donating to the capital project, we appreciate it. Any size gift is appreciated.

We signed the PCUSA loan in first quarter 2016. Our original capital loan balances were: \$450,000 on the PCUSA loan and \$162,225 line of credit at UBS. The total loans were \$612,225. The UBS line of credit has been paid off. With our current cash on hand, we can make capital payments through first quarter of 2026. At that time, we should have approximately \$100,000 principal left on the loan.

This means we have paid off 85% of our loans in the last 5 years. This is amazing! If everyone works together, we can lower this balance another \$40,00 or 50,000 in 2025 (above the current cash balance). We are getting so close to our goal of being debt free by the end of 2026.

### Sanctuary Windows Update

Thank you to everyone that has supported this project. Our church family has been very generous in your gifts. The six east side windows were completed last summer. We plan to do the remaining five windows this spring/summer. We are short \$6,500 to complete the project. If you are able to contribute a small amount, it would be helpful. Again, THANK YOU for your support.



### Finances

January Contributions	\$50,523.00
January Expenses	\$29,005.44
Monthly (over/under)	\$23,170.56

**First Presbyterian Church**  
340 South 5th Avenue  
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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!*

**MARCH 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