

THE TOWER

First Presbyterian Church

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Food Drive



Sunday, Oct 18th
through
Sunday, Nov 8th

See Deacon's article for details



Trunk or Treat

Sat October 24th



2:00-4:00 p.m.

Decorate your car and join the fun

See Deacon's article for details





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"

Equipping the Saints

Pathways for Ministry & Leadership

Courses for those discerning a call to serve, grow in ministry skills, or prepare as Commissioned Ruling Elders.

Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

www.minnesotavalleys.org

320-235-7910

Who Is This For?

Ruling elders discerning a deeper call
Members interested in preaching or teaching
Those drawn to pastoral care ministries
Anyone wanting to grow in faith and leadership

Through these courses, you will:

Grow in biblical and theological understanding
Develop skills in preaching and care
Gain confidence in leadership
Serve your congregation more effectively

Discernment Questions

Where do you sense God calling you to serve?
What gifts for ministry are emerging in your life?
How might further training equip you to lead?

What is a Commissioned Ruling Elder?

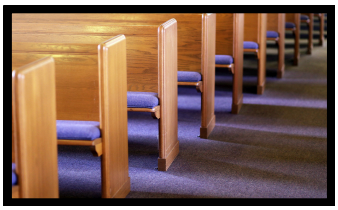
A Commissioned Ruling Elder is a trained and authorized ruling elder who serves in pastoral leadership — often in congregations without installed pastors — preaching, moderating session, and providing spiritual care under the guidance of the presbytery.

Fall Clean-up

On Sat., Oct 24th we will be cleaning up the outside of FPC. We'll also be taking the opportunity to do some clean-up inside (kitchen, sanctuary, etc. Bring your rakes, tarp and any other lawn clean-up tools. A lunch will be provided. Please park in the 4th Ave. lot so we can set up for Trunk or Treat in our main lot.







FPC Directory Photos



Church Directory photos for members will be taken October 18th, 25th and 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



I once heard about a pastor who would go to a bar in town and sit in the back corner. He would buy people a drink – anyone who wanted to talk to him - and talk about anything they wanted. He would ask and answer questions about the faith, about his job and theirs, about just about anything. It became a regular, popular meeting – so much so that they moved it to a private room upstairs with room for 20 or 30 people. Everyone in town knew about it by then and people came to talk.

I've always loved that story – and I have this feeling of sitting in the corner with you, talking about things that are going on in our lives. It's not much question and answer, but I do like to think about the Pastor's Corner like that.

If you don't already know, my name is Pastor John, and I'm your new Interim Pastor. I will be here until such time as you call a new pastor to serve as your Pastor/Head of Staff. In "Presby Speak" I'm your Transitional, non-installed pastor and we will be looking for a new "called and installed" pastor. [Ask me sometime to explain the difference if you're interested.] My job, and my calling in ministry, is to help churches work through the time after an installed pastor has left. We have a lot to do together!

During the transitional time we talk about the five tasks of interim ministry: to come to terms with your history, discover your new identity, strengthen congregational leadership, strengthen denominational connections, and prepare for a new minister. Sounds like a lot, but really I usually say that my job is to help you figure out who you are as a congregation, who you WANT to be as a congregation, and help you decide who you will call to lead you between those two points. I don't know how long I will be here. I don't know what we will find out as we explore the church's history. What I DO know is that, barring some crazy reason like a horrible car accident, I will be here until you call someone new.

Will things change? I always get asked that. The short answer is, "yes." I am not your former pastor. I will do things differently. I will encourage you all to try new things. Will all of them work? No. Probably not. And then when I leave – probably just when you're all just getting used to me – things will change again. I know change is hard, but often it is necessary.

In the meantime, as we enter into October together, my hope and my prayer is that you are at least on some level looking forward to our adventure together here in the church! I'm looking forward to getting to know you and figuring out who you are and who you want to be.

Pastor John

C.O.R.E

Christ Centered. Outreach, Relationships, Encouragement



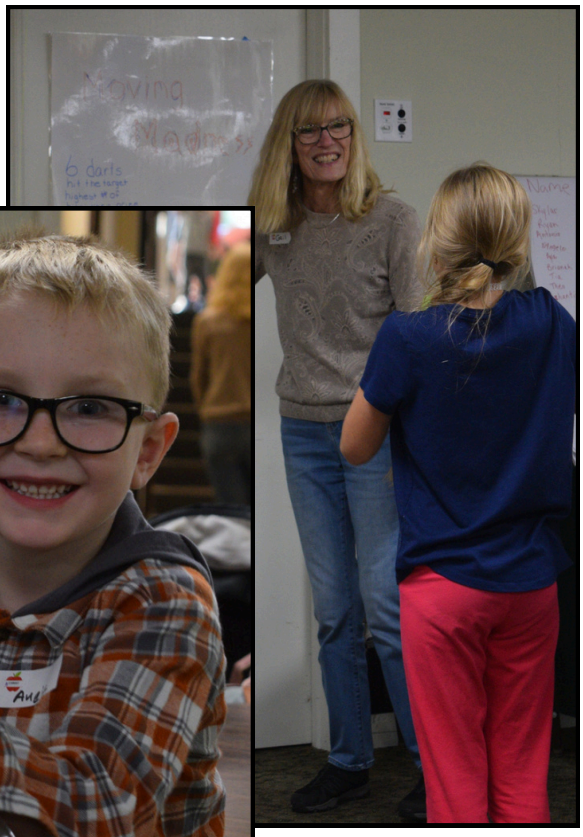


Praise to God! At the Nacho and Nerf registration event we were able to sign up a total of sixteen children for the C.O.R.E program. This means that we will need to have at a minimum of four volunteers each week. We are specifically in need of volunteers for the 2nd and 4rd weekend rotation. God has entrusted these children and their families to First Presbyterian Church of St. Cloud. Please prayerfully consider answering this call to help grow the Kingdom of God. Call Lora Hansen at 320-492-2403 for further details or questions. A huge thank you goes out to all of the volunteers that helped make this event possible.

October 4th will be our Sunday School Kickoff. We will celebrate the new year after class at 11:30. We will be having a campfire and roasting marshmallows together. Come join us and meet the new families! We'll have a big slide for kids to enjoy, weather permitting. We also need volunteer help.

On the 18th of October from 1 until 3 pm we will have our first G.I.F.T (Generations In Faith Together) event . We will be going to Cherrywood Community House to do crafts with the elderly residents. Details will be sent out in email to families. The family social will be playing family games on Wednesday the 21st of Oct. from 6:00 until 7:00 in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.


NACHO

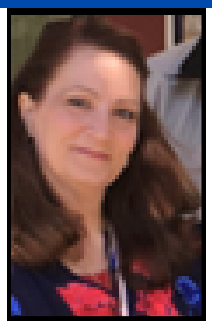

Moving
6 darts


MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD!


NERF







Music Ministry News- October 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! 🎶❤️

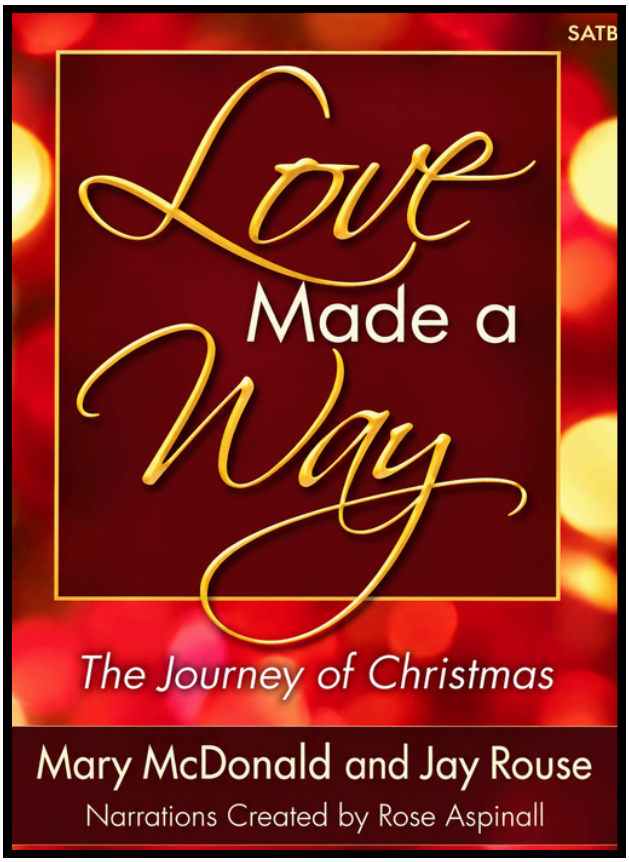
	WEDNESDAY
Chancel Choir	5:00–5:45 pm
Crusade Choir	6:00–6:45 pm
Ring! Chancel Bell Choir	7:00–7:45 pm
	THURSDAY
Closer Walk Men's Group	4:30–5:15 pm
River of Grace Bluegrass Group	5:30–6:15 pm

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!



JOIN CRUSADE CHOIR!



✨ LOVE MADE A WAY ✨
The Journey of Christmas
A Christmas Cantata
Mary McDonald & Jay Rouse
Narrations Created by Rose Aspinall
SATB
✝️ A Journey of Christmas • A Story of Love • A Savior Who Made a Way ✝️
“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son…”
— John 3:16

Concert schedule:
Friday, December 11, at 7 p.m.;
Saturday, December 12, at 7 p.m.;
Sunday, December 13, at 2 p.m.

We warmly welcome additional musicians to participate in crafting these memorable musical experiences. Join us in celebrating the spirit of the season and sharing it with the community!

I'd love to connect with you!

Whether you're interested in singing, playing an instrument, or simply learning more about our music ministry, please feel free to connect with me in person, email me at jeuteneuer@fpcstcloud.org, or call (320) 291-7425.

May God bless you throughout this month, and I look forward to making music and worshiping together!

Grace and Peace!
Jullian Euteneuer,
Music Director

Deacon's Corner

The Deacons are organizing two events this October, the semi-annual food drive and Trunk or Treat.

"Trunk or Treat" will be held in the church parking lot on Saturday, October 24, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (or when we run out of candy). For those new to "Trunk or Treat", this is how it works: Participants meet in the church parking lot and decorate their open trunks. They also provide candy for the "treaters". Kids go from car to car for treats, games, and other Halloween fun. Costumes are optional for volunteers, but definitely add to the fun! This an easy, "non-scary" way to engage the community.

If you need trunk decorating ideas, search the internet for "Trunk or Treat." Contact Jackie Benn, Linda Sarff, or Lora Hansen with questions, or for more information.

And – once again we are asking for non-perishable food and personal care items this fall. The collection dates for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard are the last two Sundays in October (October 18 and 25) and the first two Sundays in November (November 1 and 8). This will allow the collected items to be sorted and distributed mid-November, in time for Thanksgiving.

A table and display will be set up by the entrance to the sanctuary. We ask that you check the out-date for "non-perishable" food items as we cannot donate items past their "best by" date. Other needs are items such as cleaning supplies, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. Cash donations are also appreciated.

The Deacons are thankful to be part of such a generous congregation, and look forward to easing the financial burden for many people by providing needed items.

Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Submitted by Mike Rutter

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Thanks

Thank you for the donations of socks and underwear to help our local students with some back-to-school needs. We collected and delivered a trunk full to both Promise Neighborhood and Communiy Angels. You are very generous.
The Mission Committee



Who's Who in the Pew?



Admittedly, I think that most of you reading this already know a lot of this, since you were in church September 13th for my first Sunday in the pulpit. Well, a lot of you were, I guess.

My name is John Gay – Pastor John, or if you want to be really formal, the Rev. Dr. John R. Gay. I'm your new Transitional Minister – or Interim Minister; both terms are correct. I've been here since September 1st, but my first Sunday was the 13th.

I've been a Presbyterian for about 26 years, and an ordained minister for 20 years this November (the 5th, to be precise!). I was baptized as a baby by a Lutheran minister, but we never really went to church. As a historian (my major in undergrad was in history), I read a great deal about the history of the Church throughout these 2000 years and I wasn't always pleased! But eventually, I came around – I like to say that I stopped running from God's call and discovered much to my surprise that I really believe in the one holy, apostolic church and Triune God that created, redeems, and sustains all things.

Throughout my life, I feel that God has been guiding me. I don't always follow – and those are the times that have been the hardest; but God is always there for all of us! Jeremiah 29:11 is one of my favorite verses: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. Plans for prosperity and not for harm." God knows what we're supposed to do, and God is always speaking to us in so many little and large ways.

Along the way, I would have to say that one of the most interesting/powerful places I've ever been is Rome, Italy. The catacombs, the Colosseum, the Vatican (which I know is actually a separate country), the Forum…the history of this city is so powerful. Humanity hasn't changed all that much in all these years. We can still build amazing and wonderful things. We can still do so much together. And, unfortunately, we can still be absolutely horrible to each other and the world around us. Standing there as a historian, thinking back on it as a pastor and theologian…a person – if only we could come together and follow God's plan.

May it be so. I'm excited to be with you, here and now. Together.

Thank you!



Thanks to everyone who donated cereal and peanut butter over the summer! It made our partnership with Hope Covenant so successful. Please note that we are not accepting clothing donations or items for the church kitchen.

The Dignity Closet program has shifted focus, no longer needing clothing. And our kitchen is all set with needed supplies.

Catholic Charities and WACOSA Thrift Works are both wonderful programs for donations.

In gratitude,

Rhonda Siltman, Mission Committee

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, was never truly ours to begin with. It all belongs to God, and this truth invites us to reconsider not just how much we give, but why: not out of obligation, but out of recognition that everything already belongs to the One who first gave it to us.

This theme also reminds us that the gifts we have been given are meant to be used, and how we use them is left to our own faithful discernment. As Peter writes, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10, KJV). God trusts each of us and asks us to bring our own hearts and convictions. We respond by using what we have been given for His purposes.

We want to pause and say thank you. Your generosity this past year funded our mission programs, community outreach, and support of our members, and made possible additional improvements to our church property. We also became completely debt free. None of this happened by accident, and we are deeply grateful.

Pledge cards will be mailed out in mid-October. We ask that you take time in the coming weeks to reflect on your commitment, and bring your completed pledge card with you on Covenant Sunday, November 15th, as an act of faithful giving to God and to this church

Submitted by David Pennertz



	August	Year to Date
Revenue	$ 40,698	$ 304,982
Expenses	$ 33,037	$ 262,641
Over/Under	$ 7,661	$ 42,341





Service Group -October

Chairs: Randy/Kathy Arnold

John/Sandy Gibbs	Heidi Ness
Sarah Hoogendoorn	Tomoko Rebeck
Laura McLaughlin	Norm Seehusen
Pat Naysmith	Elizabeth Tot

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
Oct 4	Rachel Buchin	Lori Smith & John Hoffman	Joe/Stephanie Jacobs	Lori Smith
Oct 11	Nancy Horn	LeRoy/Paula Tift	Jan Larson & Lois Buchin	Norine Schmitt
Oct 18	Dick Andzenge	Nancy Coleman & Jeannie Duininck	Karen Larson	
Oct 25	Lauren Lenzmeier	Dan Owen & Duane Scherbing	Phil/Jeanne Chu	
Nov 1	Randy Hammond	Mike/Kim Tollefson	Betty Payne	Mike Rutter
Nov 8	Carrie Butter	Phil/Jeannie Chu	John Detra	Jacob Priest
Nov 15	Jackie Benn	John/Sharon Johnson	Ken/Norine Schmitt	
Nov 22	Stephanie Merrell	Lynn Rae Olson/Carrie Raiche	Leroy/Paula Tift	
Nov 29	Brenda Espelien	Mike Rutter/Gail Aalderks	Kari Ahles	





Kosel, Joan	10/01	Herbert, Barbara	10/11	Butter, Bob	10/24
Anderson, Joan	10/02	Coleman, Nancy	10/14	Stocker, Stacy	10/24
Horn, Thomas	10/02	Owen, Julia	10/16	Ewing, Zayda	10/26
Cimperman, Janis	10/05	Becker, Leanne	10/20	Espelien, Rickie	10/27
Karl, Mike	10/05	Eggers, Thomas	10/20	Elg, Marsha	10/28
Owen, Verlyn	10/05	Owen, Preston	10/20	Tenter, Terry	10/28
Espelien, Peter	10/08	Jost, Mary	10/22	Ness, Heidi	10/30
Arnold, Kathy	10/10	Nikodym, Matthew	10/22		

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
8:30 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