

The Tower

February 2022



Picture Directory

The last photo directory of the church was completed in 2014. It is now time to plan for our next one. Many newer people have asked for a new directory.

This directory is being compiled by our own members and friends of the church. The directory will take longer to compile but we hope to have it in your hands by the end of summer. Here's why: we begin picture taking in March and April (after worship) and conclude when the seasonal residents return in May or June.

We will be asking for you to consider having your photo taken at church sometime after worship or when it may be convenient for you. We will take your digital photo and send it to you via email or you may print it on your own. We are not charging for this service. Yes, it is free. There will be not be a hard sell for you to purchase anything.

We would ask that if you would like to help with this directory (taking photos, lining up calls, helping with administrative opportunities), please let the church office know.

First Presbyterian Church

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

Church Staff

REV. DARIN SEAMAN
Pastor

DON FORTNER
Music Director

MARK GIESE
Director of Youth and
Campus Ministry

COLTON WALTERS
LEAH JACOBS
Campus Ministry
Assistants

MARY NOTHNAGEL
Administrative Assistant

PATTY SCOTT
Custodian



Pastor's Reflections

Recently I met with Ray Rowland's family to discuss his funeral plans. They informed me that he had planned some of his funeral. He had selected scripture verses and written a few items, he hoped, would be included.

Ordinarily when I receive requests for funerals, sometimes I have to sift through the material that might be appropriate for a church worship service. Some of the remembrances are self-centered and not reflective of the love and mercy of an everlasting God.

The Worship Directory of the Book of Order is helpful as we prepare funeral services. *"The service begins with sentences of Scripture, bearing witness to the resurrection and the living hope we have in Christ. . . The act of confession and pardon may be included as an opportunity for healing and reconciliation. Scripture is read and proclaimed, expressing our trust in the risen Lord. . . Prayer is offered: giving thanks to God for life in Christ, the promise of the gospel, the life and witness of the one who has died, the comfort of the Holy Spirit, and the presence of the community of faith; making intercessions for those who grieve. (1)*

Ray's choices for the worship service were faithful and appropriate. He mentioned his thankfulness for his family and friends. He mentioned the blessings he encountered in this life but he ended by saying, "Ultimately, we are in God's hands."

I give thanks for Ray's theology and his life of faith. I give thanks for all the saints who from their labors rest.(2)



(1) Directory for Worship (W-4.0704), p. 108.

(2) Glory to God Hymnal. For All the Saints, No. 326

Rev. Darin Seaman



February Sermon Titles

Feb. 6

"Contentment: The Apostle Paul"

Ephesians 2:1-10
Part 4 of 4

February 13

"Love Matters"
1 John 4:7-16

Feb. 20

"Tough Love"
Luke 6:27-38

Feb. 27

"A Glimpse of Glory"
Luke 9:28-36

Don Fortner**Music Director****Email:** donfortner@fpstcloud.org

The fast pace of the world ruled by the clock and the pace of our being present for worship, spiritual endeavors and study are for me, at opposite ends of experience. I feel as if I need to leave the “room of the world” and step into the “sanctuary of spirit” to encounter God.

I encourage you to stay mindful and present when doing God’s work, when studying God’s word and when worshipping the Triune God.

The music department continues to practice and prepare for weekly worship and the approaching season of Lent. It

is a joy for me to witness the dedication and purposeful presence of all the music participants. Thank you all, for your gifts of time and talent.

The First Fridays at First series continues to garner attention and musicians are thrilled to have safe performing space to present to audiences hungry for live presentations.

Here is the current line up:

Ryan Frane Feb 4

Claudia Schmidt Feb 11 - bonus concert (Claudia has a Minneapolis show and is tying us into her trip)

Peter Mayer March 4

Harper’s Chord April 1

Cary Morin Duo May 6

African Drumming June 3

Rupert Wates July 7

Ryan Frane is head of Jazz Studies at UMD and participates in Jazz festivals which is where I met him at University of Northern Colorado. I had the honor and pleasure of preparing the piano for him at the recording studio for his CD release. He is masterful and fresh in his approach to jazz. He will be joined by Andy Peterson, saxophone and Gordon Lewis, bass.

Claudia Schmidt is a seasoned folk performer and has appeared on Prairie Home Companion, Good Morning America and has multiple recordings out documenting her 40+ years as a folk musician. Her originals will challenge and comfort you simultaneously.

Mark Giese



Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Email: mark@fpstcloud.org

Phone: (320) 251-8277

Office hours: 8:30am - 4:30pm, M-Th
or by appointment (Zoom or in-person)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

cancelled

no Soup Dinner for February

Sunday School 9:00am - 9:50am for PreK - High School youth

February 6 - classroom Sunday School

February 13 - classroom Sunday School

February 20 - classroom Sunday School

February 27 - **G.I.F.T. Sunday School** (*Generations in Faith Together*)

College Ministry *Friends in Faith*



Colton Walters

Intern for
Friends in Faith
College Ministry

***Wednesday, February 23**
College Student Grocery Bingo

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 at First Presbyterian Church

Email us for more info, or to RSVP
 college.fpstcloud@gmail.com



Leah Jacobs

Assistant for
Friends in Faith
College Ministry

Weaving Love MN facebook.com/weavinglovemn

Weaving Love is a group of volunteers that makes sleeping mats out of recycled plastic bags for locals experiencing homelessness.

Recycled plastic bags (from grocery stores, other retail) are:

- 1) sorted by color & store
- 2) flattened, then cut into loops
- 3) hundreds of loops are tied together to form a ball of “plarn” (plastic yarn)
- 4) “plarn” is then crocheted into a 3-foot wide x 6-foot long plastic mat that can be rolled up and easily transported (lightweight & kept rolled-up by a loop built in)

* From start to finish, it takes +/- 30 hours to complete 1 mat

* It takes between 600-800 plastic bags to complete 1 mat

* Contact Mark Giese to learn more, or to connect with other volunteers



Darlene S. sorting and flattening bags



Wendy S. crocheting 3' x 6' rolled mats made from recycled plastic bags

special offering on **Sunday, February 13**



Visit: tacklehunger.org

For over 30 years, the Souper Bowl of Caring movement has been inspiring people across the nation to tackle hunger in their local communities.

MISSION: Uniting communities to tackle hunger

VISION: Driving a youth-inspired nation-wide movement to organize communities to give locally and make a collective impact on hunger.

What is Per Capita?

Per Capita is something that is often misunderstood in the church. I have heard it referred to as a tax or as dues. It is not either. It is the way that each person and each congregation participates in the work of the greater church. All Presbyterians are called to take part in the ecclesiastical and administrative work shared by the whole church. Through this contribution, all of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils connect to share in the costs. Per Capita is the amount that is paid for every baptized member of our congregations.

For 2022, the amount is \$43.00. Breaking it down, \$8.98 goes to the General Assembly. The General Assembly (GA) manages and coordinates the GA gathering every other year.

The Office of General Assembly (OGA) also coordinates gatherings for leadership training for Presbytery and Synod leaders. This also helps them find ways to work together to make the whole church work more smoothly and effectively. This office also helps churches connect with individuals seeking a call. OGA hosts the national website where pastors and churches put up their information when they are searching.

Our Synod of Lakes and Prairies receives \$5.50 of the per capita contribution. With it, they support their staff, plus do leadership training for Presbyteries, support the annual Synod School in Storm Lake, Iowa, where more than 600 people attend. The synod partners with Presbyterian Colleges and Presbyterian Homes.

The Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys' portion of Per Capita is \$28.52. This supports staff, coordinates Presbytery meetings per year, and does many training events and some mission projects. The Presbytery supports our connection with the Occidente Presbytery in Guatemala. The presbytery, through Commission on Leadership, works with churches who are without pastoral leadership.

Another important project of our Presbytery, working with the synod, is the support of The Academy. This is a two-year program for training lay leadership. It was in an earlier version of this program that I received my training. In an area with a lot of small churches, lay leadership is getting more and more important if many of our churches are going to survive. Also, as we know, finding full time pastors to serve in rural Minnesota is not an easy task. Even finding people to fill in when pastors are on vacation or churches are in transition is hard.



It's not the benefits alone that make us committed to the per capita offering. It is part of who we are as Presbyterians. We are part of a connectional church that values our covenantal relationship with the entire Presbyterian family. A big thanks to everyone and all the churches that pay their per capita. There is a lot of mission and ministry that goes on behind the scenes, both in our Presbytery, the Synod and Office of General Assembly. It's all of you that make that work possible.

Blessings,
Kathy Terpstra
Gap Executive Presbyter

Finances

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| December Contributions | \$ 37,021.32 |
| December Expenses | \$ 54,134.16 |
| Over/under | \$-17,112.84 |
| YTD over/under | \$ 11.07 |



2021 Recap

We had another good financial stewardship year in 2021. Giving exceeded expenses with oversight and help from other Finance members, Session and staff. This year we were able to complete the wiring for the sanctuary using money directly from the operating budget. We also were able to give additional dollars to mission at the end of the year including a gift to Clearwater Forest supporting their capital campaign.

In 2022, we have an increased budget for staff salaries and, we believe, a considerable increase for utilities. We will monitor this closely as the year progresses and adjust accordingly. Thank you for your stewardship support. We are grateful for your ongoing ministry.

Cookie Bakers Needed!

On Feb. 19 we are partnering with our friends at Hope Covenant Church. The purpose of the gathering is to provide a community outreach of food and supplies for those in need.

We have been asked to provide cookies for the event (50 dozen). If you may be interested in helping with the event or offering cookies, please contact Darlene Scherbing. Contact the church office and we'll get you connected.



Who's Who in the Pew?

Don Ondracek

Tell us about yourself.

I was born and raised on a farm near Hutchinson, MN. I graduated from Hutchinson HS, where I was a 3-sport letterman and belonged to the National Honor Society. After graduation, I attended Southwest State University in Marshall MN. I received a Bachelor's degree in both Physical Education and Health. While there, I lettered two years in wrestling. Because teaching positions were scarce at that time, I worked retail for several years. Then I started teaching pre-school children at Kid's Country Learning Center in Sartell. I spent 29 years there until my retirement.



Share things about your family.

I am married to Karen, whom I met while attending Southwest State University. Together we have two boys: Joseph and Nikulas. Joseph is an engineering manager at Marvin Windows in Fargo. He and his wife Erin have three kids. Nikulas is a Director of Actuary in Minneapolis. He and his wife Meg live in Stillwater and they have 2 kids.

How long has you attended FPC? Before that, where have you attended?

We have been at FPC since 1991. Before that we attended Trinity Presbyterian Church in Waite Park (a start-up church). In my youth, I attended the Czech Brethren Presbyterian Church in Silver Lake, MN, where I was confirmed.

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

We took a week long trip to the Czech Republic, spending most of our time in Moravia. We stayed in the village of Marsovice, which is where my father's ancestors came from. My great-great grandfather and his family immigrated to the US in 1881. I have done extensive research on my ancestry. This trip was a chance to see and experience the places my family once lived. To my amazement, we found living relatives in the house my great grandfather was born in! It was a once-in-a-life-time experience and I hope to go back to the Czech Republic another time.

What is your favorite Bible verse/verses?

Judge not, lest ye be judged. Matthew 7:1

He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone. John 8:7

What are your past times/hobbies?

I have run all my life. I have run 3 marathons, a half marathon and numerous 10K races. My slogan is "Live to Run and Run to Live". For the past 13 years, we have enjoyed spending time with our grandkids. Best time ever!

Throughout my adult life I have researched my family tree concentrating on my father's side. I have information back to the early 1700's for the Ondraceks.

Who's Who in the Pew? (continued)

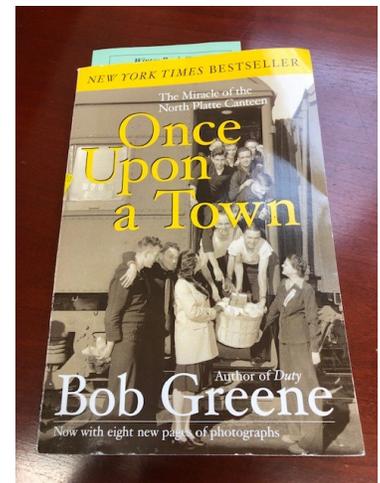
My grandfather and I restored a Farmall F20 tractor in the early 1980's, which started my fascination with the antique ag equipment. I still have this tractor and my collection of antique ag equipment grew from there.

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

I would like to spend an evening with my great-great grandfather Frantisek Ondracek. I would love to understand the life they lived in the Czech Republic, why they came to the US, and the challenges they experienced in their new world.

Winter Book Club

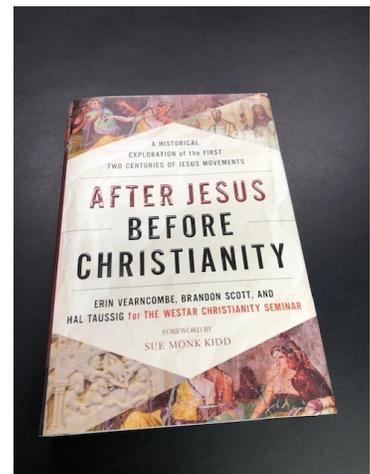
Books are now available for the winter book club to be held in February 2022. *Once Upon a Town* by Bob Greene is the book of choice. Even though it is an older book it is still appropriate for reflection and study today. Books are available for checkout in the library. The Book Club will meet on February 22 at the Perkins (across from Cross-roads Mall) in St. Cloud. The meeting will take place at 2:00 pm.



New to the Church Library

After Jesus Before Christianity

What do we know about how Christianity took shape? Do the rituals, practices, and beliefs common today look anything like those of the earliest Christians? These questions frame the thought experiment of a group of scholars. Highlighting the many archaeological and manuscript discoveries over the past twenty years, the book offers insights and discoveries that provide new insights.



SUNDAY WORSHIP WORKERS SCHEDULE

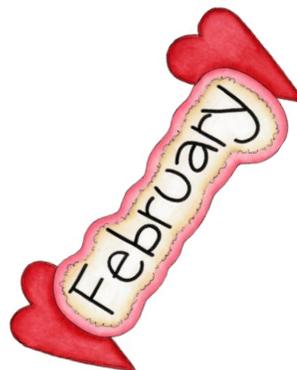
Listed below is the Worker schedule for Sunday Worship. If you are unavailable for the assigned date, please swap with someone else scheduled that month. Also notify the office of any swaps, so that the Sunday bulletin can be updated.

Thank you for your service to the Church.

| | <u>Worship Leader</u> | <u>Ushers (2)</u> | <u>Greeter (1)</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Feb. 6 | Melanie Anderson | Joe/Stephanie Jacobs | Duane Scherbing |
| Feb. 13 | Dick Andzenge | John Detra/John Pike | Michelle Chan |
| Feb. 20 | Bobbie Lampi | Bert/Jan East | Shauna Seaman |
| Feb. 27 | Bailey Knoblock | Mary Lease/Dick Andzenge | Stephanie Randolph |



| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Julie Andzenge | 02/02 |
| Barbara Isaacson | 02/02 |
| Sharon Johnson | 02/03 |
| Daniel Calhoun | 02/06 |
| Roger Duininck | 02/06 |
| Scott Varner | 02/07 |
| Grayden Ewing | 02/09 |
| Mary Giese | 02/09 |
| Sharon Minet | 02/09 |
| Chuck (Charles) Pelzer | 02/09 |
| Nancy Coss | 02/10 |
| Mary McMullen | 02/10 |
| Pat Hontos | 02/12 |



| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Arlene Wickmann | 02/14 |
| Betty Moffitt | 02/15 |
| Phyllis Feia | 02/16 |
| Jackson Nikodym | 02/16 |
| Paige Nutter | 02/16 |
| Dan Owen | 02/20 |
| Steven Shaler | 02/21 |
| Reese Baas | 02/24 |
| Alvin Yu | 02/24 |
| Stephanie Jacobs | 02/25 |
| Carole Lysher | 02/25 |
| Phyllis Bowden | 02/26 |

Introducing the Deacon Class of 2024



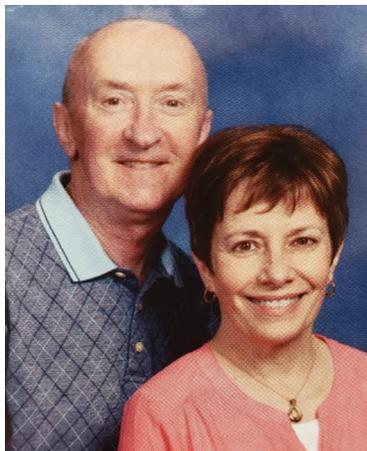
Gary Lenzmeier & Stephanie Merrell

Gary Lenzmeier and his wife Stephanie Merrell. These folks first attended First Pres. in December of 2018 and felt so incredibly welcomed they became members in 2019. They have already participated in many church activities; serving at the Place of Hope, providing gifts to children at Christmas, donating food, helping with the Christmas program, the Christmas tea and Wednesday evening meals. Though neither Gary or Stephanie have been deacons before when they were asked to join the Deacons and support the congregation and community they stepped up to the task. They believe that service in the church and to the community are very important and are looking forward to the opportunity to serve and get to know more church members.

She and her family started worshipping at FPC in 1987. When Hope Presbyterian in Sauk Rapids needed a pastor the Dirks left for Jerry to Pastor the congregation. After he retired they returned to FPC. Carol has been a Deacon in the past. She has taught a Sunday Seminar, helped with Home Delivered Meals, helped develop a home visitation program for new church visitors and served on youth committees. Carol spent her career, as a nurse, helping people, and believes the gifts God has given her blend well with the mission of the Deacons. She feels especially called to the home visitation ministry.



Carol Dirks



Randy & Kathy Arnold

Randy and Kathy Arnold are long-time members, joining FPC in the mid 90's. Both have been Deacons in the past and have participated in many church activities. Randy has been involved on the Adult Ed. Committee, assisting with COTW and Place of Hope, Mother Hubbard's food drive; Home Delivered Meals, serving on the nominating committee and visiting shut-ins. Randy is putting into action his belief to serve others. The Deacon mission he previously enjoyed was getting to know other church members through visitations in Long Term Care home. Kathy has been involved in Mission and Social Action committee, coordinating and delivering the Christmas presents. As a past Deacon she particularly enjoyed the visitation ministry where she met older church members and learned so much about the Church history. Over the past few years her desire to become more involved in the church and participating as a Deacon again felt like the right step.

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 Telephone: 320-251-8277
 e-mail: admasst@fpctestcloud.org
 web site: www.fpctestcloud.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"*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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!*

FEBRUARY 2022

SESSION

Pastor Darin Seaman, Moderator
 Bobbi 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, Kim Tollefson, Alvin Yu, Stephanie
 Randolph

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 Cimper-
 man, Barb Isaacson

Class of 2024: Gary Lenzmeier, Stephanie Merrell, Randy Arnold,
 Kathy Arnold, Carol Dirkes