

# The Tower

June 2025

## Lower Town Concert and Carnival

Lower Town is providing a free outdoor concert to our community on Thursday, **June 12**. Food trucks will be open starting at 5:00 pm. The music will begin at 5:30 pm with Lower Town playing at 6:00 pm. Carnival games will be provided for kids of all ages.

Here's what you can do: bring a lawn chair, bring your friends and show up for this great event. If you would like to help with the carnival games, set up or take down, please contact the Youth Director, Lora Hansen.



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



### Church Staff

REV. DARIN SEAMAN  
Pastor

BECKY STUDNISKI  
Administrative  
Assistant

JULLIAN EUTENEUER  
Music Director

LORA HANSEN  
Youth Director

BRAD JOHNSON  
Facilities Coordinator

PATTY SCOTT  
Custodian

DON ONDRACEK  
Assistant Custodian

## Pastor's Reflections

I was recently asked about worship. Specifically, I was asked why I read through the biblical text and then preach through it verse by verse. Isn't that repetitive? The member was commenting that there might not be a need for oral recitation when I exposit the text later in the worship service.

While I understood the question, I shared that the reading of the Word and proclamation of the Word is vital to our worship service. Both in its *Book of Confessions* and its Directory for Worship, the Presbyterian Church (USA) lifts up the majesty of the Word read and preached. Where the Scriptures are read and preached, the Holy Spirit is at work to manifest Jesus Christ, the Living Word, in the midst of the assembly. (1)

Peter C. Bower emphasizes this by writing the following:

*The Reformed tradition believes that, though the reading of the Word is not a sacrament, it is sacramental. That is to say, by the reading and preaching of the Word, Jesus Christ does indeed become present to the congregation (as opposed to Christ whose words are simply being recalled from a historical distance) to the congregation, just as we believe Christ becomes present among us in the celebration of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. This presence is not ours to command, but is a gift of God by means of the Holy Spirit.* (2)

There is also a practical answer to the question above. The reading of the Word gives the worshiper a first opportunity to hear the Word of God before reflecting and studying it. It is another way to experience the Living Word among us.

The grace and peace of Christ be with you.



Rev. Darin Seaman

### June Sermon Titles

**June 1 - Celebrating Graduates**  
"What Must I Do?"  
Acts 16:16-34

**June 8 - Pentecost - Confirmation Sunday**  
"Ways of Seeing"  
Acts 2

**June 15 - Symbolism of Water**  
"Water as a Symbol of Life"  
Genesis 1

**June 22**  
"Water as a Symbol of Chaos/  
Judgment"  
Genesis 6-9

**June 29**  
"Following Jesus"  
Luke 9:51-62

(1) Bower, Peter C., editor. *The Companion to the Book of Common Worship*, Geneva Press, 2003, p. 31.

(2) Ibid, p. 31



## Welcome our New Youth Director!!

I am Lora Hansen. Wife, mother of five and proud grandmother of one. My husband, Matt and I will be celebrating our 20-year anniversary this September. We recently bought our forever home out in St. Joe, MN. The house is a combination of lake life and country, which meets Matt's need for serenity and my need for adventure. We look forward to hosting gatherings once we get all settled.



I grew up in Alexandria, MN and moved to St. Cloud to attend college. I graduated from St. Cloud State with a BA in Social Work. I met my husband shortly after graduation. Matt and I became a shelter foster home placement until we ended up adopting two children out of the system. I have enjoyed a career that has given me the privilege to work with diverse groups from at risk youth, families in crisis, the developmentally disabled and infant through geriatric populations. Overall, I just enjoy working with people.

I was blessed with the opportunity to attend the "Free Grace United College." This program focuses on building disciples of Jesus. Throughout my college experience I was led into a position of serving and ministry. I was able to be the youth group director while my daughters were attending, serve as the volunteer coordinator and various other areas as needed.

I feel excited, nervous, a little scared, but mostly just blessed to be given the opportunity to come alongside of First Presbyterian Church and work towards building a stronger spiritual future for our children and community.

You may contact me at [lora.hansen@fpcstcloud.org](mailto:lora.hansen@fpcstcloud.org). Thank you for welcoming me!



## Confirmation Sunday – June 8th

Please join us after worship to celebrate our confirmands with cake and fellowship! We joyfully recognize: **Lauren Lenzmeier, Ariel Yu, Sara Rebeck, and Nathan Hounkpati**



## 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! **Thank you for your continued support!**

## 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!



## Cash Wise Brat Sale (June 6/7)

The Youth will have a brat sale on June 6th and 7th in front of Cash Wise in Waite Park. We will be serving from 11 am to 6 pm. Please stop by for a tasty lunch to support our campers!

**Volunteers needed**—we'd love your help! Please see our new youth director, Lora!

Email: [Lora.Hansen@fpcstcloud.org](mailto:Lora.Hansen@fpcstcloud.org) or Call the church at 251-8277.





## Shine Your Light

Thank you to the congregation for attending, supporting, and praying for our children! They have grown so much this year. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Sunday School teachers and volunteers for their dedication in nurturing God's youngest disciples.



## Thank You!!

The Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Committee extends heartfelt thanks to all who attended the May Wednesday Dinner and a special thank you to Jeanne Duininck and her dedicated kitchen crew, as well as all the volunteers who helped make the event a success!

Thank you! ♥

## Thank you!!

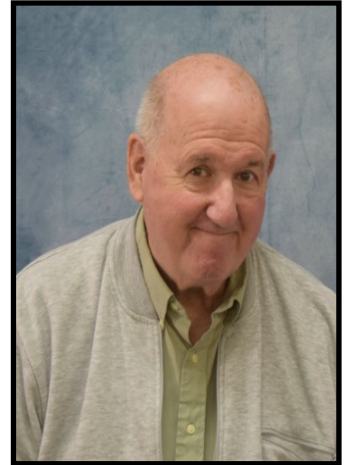
*I would like to thank everyone who sent me cards, prayers, and phone calls during my recovery from shoulder replacement surgery. - Ken Picha*

## Who's Who in the Pew

### John Bowden

My wife Phyllis and I have lived in Minnesota since 1983. I am a native of Detroit and I am 81 years of age...Phyllis and I have been married for 56 years and have two children (Beth and Mike) who were adopted.

We have lived in four different states and moved because of career advancements. I started in Highland Park, Michigan in 1966 as an English teacher and then became a librarian in 1969. We moved to New Jersey in 1974 so I could accept a Media Supervisor position. This lasted until 1976 when we moved to California, where I became a Community College librarian. In 1983 we moved to Marshall, MN where I became a library director and dean in Distance Learning at Southwest Minnesota State University and stayed until 2007, when I retired.



I spent 41 years in education and took pride in what I was able to do for students. I have continued this work in retirement as a Foster Grandparent for 17 years. I tutor primary age children in math and reading.

The focus of the Presbyterian church Phyllis and I have is a deep one as we became very involved in each of the churches we have attended. I care very much to live a good life and feel I have done many good things. The First Presbyterian Church is a good church where people care for each other. I feel very good about what we do and welcome newcomers to our church every Sunday.

I have attended First Presbyterian Church since 2009 when we moved to Waite Park. We previously were members of Christ United Presbyterian church in Marshall, MN. I am a Presbyterian elder.

Phyllis and I have had a beautiful marriage, and we have done many things that I take pride in. We care about our friends and especially our children and grandchildren. We have two grandchildren, Nik and Victoria.

A major part of my retirement years have been in writing grants for the St. Cloud School District and the City of Waite Park. I take pride in the Adaptive Playground and many artists I have brought to Talahi. In Waite Park my work focuses on the reading garden at the public library.

## DEACONS CORNER

**Mike Rutter**



“Oh Ye of little faith.” This appears multiple times in Matthew (8:26, 14:31, & 16:8), however I remember it from my father. Every time we faced an uncertain, sometimes unpredictable outcome while attempting to fix a mechanic problem (frequent in a logging enterprise), he would come out with this phrase. And then simply proceed as answers produced along the way.

For me, the call had arrived several times to be a Deacon, with a “decline” each time. Perhaps too little faith on my part. It's not that I was a “sinner” in the traditional sense – I was staying within the parameters of the 10 Commandments, but it was the “Things I have left undone,” nagging at my soul. With the last request came a “yes” – surprising even my wife.

In the 1989 film, “Cousins” (based on a French romantic comedy), an old curmudgeon played by Lloyd Bridges looks at the church, stating something like: “I'm always nervous when they get God inside a building.” I felt much the same way, but taking the leap into becoming a Deacon has allowed me to experience a sense of God's mission and service “outside” the building.

Zoom meetings have helped with any reluctance. One held this past February featured Pastor Brian Jones of the Hope Presbyterian Church, Spicer, MN. He educated us that the first serving Deacons were the Greeks – put into play by the Church as they kept bringing up (complaining?) of needs that just weren't being met! The next thing covered – that there are essentially only THREE requirements for Deacon-Level Faith:

Recognizing Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church

Recognizing the Sacrament of Baptism

Recognizing the Sacrament of Holy Communion

The next topic – just listening. I'm a talker, and sometimes joke that I once took such a good “listening” course that I can't shut up about it! The need to listen, especially with a widening epidemic of loneliness creeping into “modern” society, underscores the importance of someone just being there. Not just for family & friends, but those we visit and any others we discover are in need. Along with listening, the idea of simply being with another, perhaps in silence, is a passive component of service that can be cultivated.

Someone, anyone, really, who considers themselves “Ye – of little faith,” might still be of very useful service in a community that strives to follow God and the Lord's Path.

Submitted by Mike Rutter

## Feeding Our Neighbors

Once again, our Mission Committee will be partnering with Hope Covenant to feed our neighbors as part of their People-to-People program.

This program usually draws between 50-75 families for each monthly distribution in February, March, and April. During the summer months, the number easily exceeds 100. Hope Covenant distributes free produce during these months, which draws more people, and the need is also greater with kids out of school.

Our Mission Committee hands out various non-perishable items during these events. For the summer months, we will focus on peanut butter and cereal. We would greatly appreciate if you could pick up an extra jar of peanut butter or box of cereal while you are shopping this summer. Simply leave it in the food shelf basket as you walk in. We will collect them and take them to Hope on June 21, July 19, August 16, and September 20, to give to anyone who shows up. When we all give a little, it becomes a lot.



If you have any questions or would like to join us on the distribution dates, please contact Rhonda Siltman or any member of the Mission Committee.

## Sudanese Ministry

Rev. Elizabeth Tot is the pastor of our South Sudanese Fellowship in St. Cloud. Elizabeth serves primarily single mothers in the South Sudanese community who are struggling to make ends meet. She is a pastoral presence to the Nuer people in St. Cloud and Mankato. Rev. Tot's group meets at our church on Sunday afternoons. If you wish to donate to this ministry, you may write a check to the church with "Pastor Elizabeth Tot" in the memo line. Please continue your ministry. prayers for Elizabeth and this





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## Habitat for Humanity

Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity continues to build homes in Central MN. For over 30 years, Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity has built houses for and with our neighbors in need. A Habitat home is a symbol of hope and connectedness in our community, and it creates ripples of kindness and understanding that extend far beyond its walls.

In 1988, eight St. Cloud citizens who were concerned about the lack of decent, affordable housing in the area applied to start a local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International to serve the needs of families in Central Minnesota. In 1989 we were granted affiliate status and we began the construction of our first Habitat home in St. Cloud. Our first Partner Family purchased the home in 1990.

Since then, the organization has sold houses to 100 families. Additionally, they have built almost 100 homes in Costa Rica, Paraguay, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Your mission dollars help to support this organization. Thank you for your support!



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## Foster Grandparent Program

Help make a difference in the lives of children. Become a Foster Grandparent through Catholic Charities and AmeriCorps. Volunteers can serve in schools, Head Start, pre-schools and other places where they tutor and mentor children and youth. For more information, contact Sue Feliciano, Area Supervisor, (320) 229-4589.



## Celebrating Our Graduates:

Honoring their achievements and God's guidance on their journey

### High School Graduates

#### *Andrew Giese*

Andrew Giese - Son of Mark and Mary Giese.

- Graduated from Sauk Rapids Rice High School.
- Proud achievement: Completing a year of PSEO at St. Cloud Technical College.
- Next steps: Attending Central Lakes College for their Automotive Technician program.



#### *Bailey Seaman*

Bailey Seaman - Daughter of Shauna and Darin Seaman.

- Graduated from Sauk Rapids Rice High School.
- Proud achievements: Winning 2nd at national DECA twice and performing well in sports and academics.
- Next steps: Attending college at the University of Nebraska/Lincoln to study marketing.



### College Graduates

#### *Peter Espelien*

Peter Espelien- Son of Jay and Brenda Espelien.

- Graduated from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Terre Haute, Indiana.
- Degree: Bachelor of Science and Master of Mechanical Engineering.
- Proud achievement: Completing both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in four years, with honors.
- Next steps: Commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force on May 31, 2025, with my first duty station at the 418th Flight Test Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base, southern California, as a Developmental Engineer.



***Calvin Walters***

Calvin Walters—son of Rachel Buchin and Shane Walters.

- Graduated from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities with a Bachelors in Human Physiology.
- Next steps: He is taking a gap year to work. He plans to apply to med school or pharmacy school.

***Will Yu***

Will Yu - Son of Alvin Yu and Michelle Chan.

- Graduated from St. John's University in Collegeville with a degree in Biology on a Pre-Med track.
- Next steps: He plans to continue his training at Fort Benning, GA for Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course in the fall and continue his education after.

**Graduate Recognition**

We will recognize our high school and college graduates on Sunday, June 1 during worship. Join us for ice cream after worship as we celebrate with them. Cards of congratulations are always welcome.

**Bailey Seaman Grad Party**

You are invited to Bailey's graduation party at her home (404 15th Street North in Sauk Rapids). The party will be on Friday, June 20 from 4-8 pm.

**Notice of Congregational Meeting (June 15)**

Please note a congregational meeting will be held, after worship, on June 15 for the purpose of electing Carrie Butter to the office of Deacon. Carrie is filling the unexpired term of Mary Lease. The meeting should not last more than five minutes.



## Summer Chrysalis 2025

August 14-17

Keynote: Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy

Theme: “Walking the Good Road: Embracing Spiritual Wisdom for the Journey”

In Lakota tradition, the concept of *čhaŋkú lúta*—the “Good Red Road”—represents a life of balance, purpose, and deep spiritual connection. As women of faith, we are called to walk this sacred path with courage, wisdom, and grace. Together, we will explore what it means to walk the Good Road in our daily lives, drawing from scripture, Indigenous spirituality, and our shared experiences. Through storytelling, reflection, and discussion, we will uncover how God meets us on this journey, strengthening us in times of challenge and renewal.



**Dr. Sherman-Conroy**

Workshops include:

Sacred Nourishment	Journal Making
Braiding Sweetgrass	Mandala Painting
My Voice, My Power	Joy For The Journey

Clearwater Chrysalis is a balanced, faith-building Christian program of Clearwater Forest. We welcome adult women from all beliefs. Our vision is to nourish and support the body, mind, and spirit in community with other women.

A few women from our church are planning to attend. Please see [clearwaterforest.org](https://clearwaterforest.org) for more info.

## Pentecost Offering (June 8)

The Pentecost Offering, one of our denomination's four churchwide Special Offerings, supports ministries with children, youth and young adults in our community, across the nation and around our world. As you give to this important Offering, remember that 40% of your gift remains in our church to support ministries with younger people in our community as we choose.

Pentecost is a church holiday that we look forward to every year. It's a day of celebration and gratitude for the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is also a traditional day in the Church's history for baptism and the welcome of new members into the community of faith. This year, our receiving of the Pentecost Offering will connect us to these ancient church practices. We are invited to think about the offerings we will receive as a recommitment of the promises we make in baptism to love the Lord our God through the raising up of children and adults into lives of faithfulness and discipleship.

Our gifts are also a way for us to consider the ministries of the Church around the world that are caring for and nurturing children, youth and young adults — our participation in the Pentecost Offering is helping these powerful ministries welcome new people into the household of faith every day! This Offering is an incredible opportunity to show God's love through our hands, our feet and our offerings so that those who come after us might share in discipleship.



**Chairs - Ron/Karen Larson**

Margaret Brooks

Rodney/Kelly Kadlec

Gary Lenzmeiter/Stephanie Merrell

Lynn Rae Olson/Carrie Raiche

**Dan/Julia Owen**

David/Katie Pennertz

Robert/Betty Payne

Mary McMullen

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Greeter</u>
<b>1 June</b>	Randy Hammond	Randy/Kathy Arnold	Linda Bettison
<b>8 June</b>	Nancy Horn	Phil/Jeannie Chu	Jan East
<b>15 June</b>	Gene Williamson	Joe/Stephanie Jacobs	Jan Larson/Lois Buchin
<b>22 June</b>	Linda Bettison	Ron/Karen Larson	Betty Payne
<b>29 June</b>	Carrie Butter	Dan Owen/Jeanne Duininck	Leroy/Paula Tift
<b>6 July</b>	Bobbie Lampi	Lynn Rae Olson/Carrie Raiche	John Hoffman
<b>13 July</b>	Tami Calhoun	John Pike/Lori Smith	Phil/Jeannie Chu
<b>20 July</b>	Mary Jost	Leroy/Paula Tift	John Bowden
<b>27 July</b>	John Bowden	John Detra/Duane Scherbing	Stephanie Randolph

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. Please contact the church to update your contact information.

Karen Ferkinhoff	6/01		Jean Tulkki	6/17
Tami Calhoun	6/02		Inez Hornibrook	6/18
Jessica Nikodym	6/02		Linda Sarff	6/18
Marilyn Williamson	6/02		Norine Schmitt	6/18
Amanda Christensen	6/04		Crystal Wood	6/18
Alex Smith	6/05		Roger Minet	6/20
Joseph Roberts	6/09		Gavin Owen	6/20
Vicki Baston	6/10		Callie Justin	6/21
Roni Janssen	6/12		John Pike	6/21
Jeanne Duininck	6/15		Landry Seaman	6/24
Bryon Otremba	6/16		Larry Moorhouse	6/29

If we have missed anyone's birthday, please let the church office staff know (320) 251-8277



## Finance Committee

Thank you for your generous giving to our church. April was a financially strong month. All of our building projects having been going very well. We have been able to “Preserve Our Heritage” and have the Sanctuary Window covers installed.

Our staff positions are filled. We have a great music program under the direction of Jullian Euteneuer. We were able to add a Youth Director, Lora Hansen. All this is possible because of your generous giving.

Are you aware that after age 70-1/2 you can contribute to the church through the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). This allows you to contribute to the church directly from your IRA without being taxed on the donation. The donation goes directly from your IRA to the church and is not consider as income. Discuss this with your financial advisor about this.

Also, after age 73 you can contribute directly to the church from your retirement account without being taxed on the donation. Again discuss this with your financial advisor.

Our church is doing very well financially, Thank you. Have a safe, healthy, and happy summer. God’s blessing to you all.

- Tom Horn



<b>Finances</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Member Contributions	\$31,997	\$142,997
Total Revenue	\$33,647	\$150,940
Expenses	\$25,881	\$121,494
Net (over/under)	\$ 7,765	\$29,445

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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!*

**JUNE 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

Class of 2027: Jacki Benn, John Johnson, Sharon Johnson, Linda  
Sarff, Lori Smith