

July, 2026

The Tower

Blessing for an Interim Congregation

As you enter this place, may you find here every blessing and all peace for the journey. We are an interim congregation right now. Take joy! God is changing us! God is the Potter, and we are the clay. We have a past which has shaped us. We remember with humility the places of darkness and doubt that contained us, but we have learned that the Divine Presence shines in any darkness. We look back with gratitude, remembering the many leaders who have gifted us and who have helped us to run with perseverance the race that is always before us. We have a holy future which is still unfolding. We look ahead with eagerness to that future unknown to us but known to God.

Meanwhile, we live in the present, in faith and in love, not knowing where we go, only knowing that God goes before us and will never let us go. We join hands and hearts in hope, knowing that hope grounded in God never disappoints. Though we are without an Installed Pastor, we will not be without forever. We are not without Guidance. We have the Sacred Presence of Word and Spirit to guide us. As Moses brought the children of Israel safely to the banks of the Jordan, so we will be brought safely to where we need to be. As congregations of old found blessing in the arrival of the itinerant Apostle Paul, so we will find blessing with the arrival one day of our Installed Pastor. May eternal love enfold us. May divine power sustain us. May everlasting faith uplift us. May the touch of the Great Physician heal us, today and always. Amen.

written by Rev. Dr Paul Soderquist

We hope you find this prayer helpful as our congregation
goes through this time of transition



First Presbyterian Church
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Church Staff

Kristina Schaab
Administrative Assistant

Jullian Euteneuer
Music Director

Lora Hansen
Youth Director

Brad Johnson
Facilities Coordinator

Patty Scott
Custodian

Don Ondracek
Assistant Custodian



C.O.R.E



**Christ Centered.
Outreach,
Relationships,
Encouragement**

After taking the week of the 4th off, C.O.R.E will kick off Family Fun and Faith nights on Monday the 13th. The second half of this program will run for 6 weeks and focus on assisting parents with sharing faith based activities with their children. We are in need of two more adult or older teen helpers to ensure these nights run smoothly. If interested in serving in this way please contact Lora Hansen at 320-492-2403 or lora.hansen@fpcstcloud.org

With all of your generous help, the first week in August, we will have 7 campers that will be attending the Clearwater Forest Camp this year.





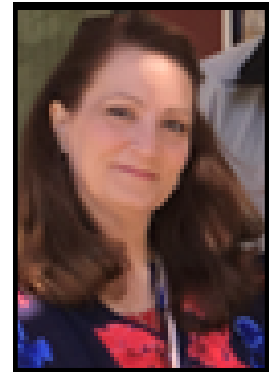
In May we were able to celebrate all of our students during Shine Your Light, finish off our winter programs and wish three of our seniors congratulations on their high school graduation. The beginning of June has brought upon the start of our summer programs. New this year we are having Family Fun and Faith nights. These events take place on Monday nights for 6 weeks before and after the 4th of July week. We have had two events and welcomed around 25 families outside of our church to join in the fun.

The goal of Family Fun and Faith nights is to create excitement and enrollment for our fall and winter programs. As we grow all of these programs, we also need to grow our youth volunteer team. We are currently looking for individuals to teach, be the second adult or to sub. If you are interested in becoming involved, please reach out to the Youth Director. A criminal background check will need to be completed prior to serving with kids. The youth program is also inviting all of our members to join us on family nights to help greet families, answer questions about the church and to invite families to worship with us on Sunday morning.

A special thank you to David Pattison and Pattison Farms for their support of the Youth through the sale of flower certificates. Thank you to all who purchased your flowers through the certificates.



Music Notes- July 2026



Summer is in full swing, and while some of our regular groups take a lighter schedule, music continues to be a vibrant part of worship at First Presbyterian!

I am so grateful for the many individuals who share their gifts throughout the year. During the summer months, we have a wonderful opportunity to hear from a variety of musicians, singers, and song leaders who help lead us in worship. Their willingness to share their talents is truly a blessing to our congregation.

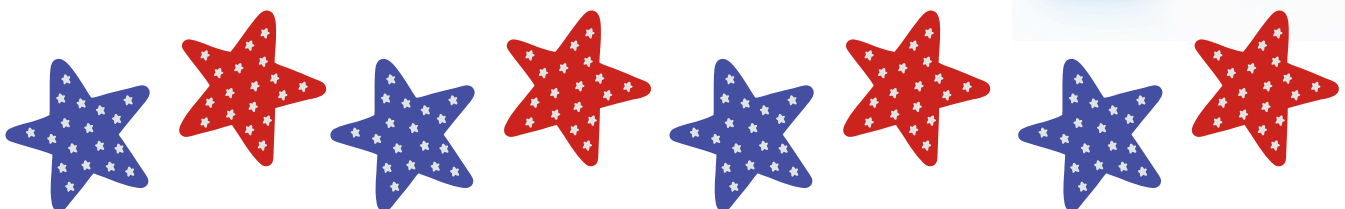
I continue to look for song leaders each Sunday this summer, as well as anyone ages 3 to 100 who would like to sing, play an instrument, or offer special music during worship. Whether you are just beginning or have years of experience, there is a place for you. A favorite recital piece, a hymn, a duet with a family member, or an instrumental selection can all be meaningful offerings of praise.

I began playing for church when I was 12 years old, and that simple opportunity opened many doors in my life and faith journey. You never know how God may use your gifts to encourage others and deepen your own walk with Christ.

Our Songbirds Women's Choir will also be sharing their music this summer, and our bell choir and men's group continue to faithfully offer their talents in worship. It is a joy to see music bringing people together in fellowship and praise.

If you have ever considered participating in music ministry, this is the perfect time to connect with me. Every voice and every gift matters.

Together, we make a joyful noise unto the Lord!



Who's Who in the Pew?

Rachel Buchin



Tell us about yourself: I grew up on a turkey farm in Upsala, MN. I have three sisters and two brothers. We are all very close even though we live all over the U.S. My parents moved us to St. Cloud when I was in 8th grade and I graduated from Apollo High School in 1998. I went to SCSU my senior year of high school and one additional year before taking a gap year to attend a Bible school in the state of Virginia. After Bible school I attended massage therapy school in Minneapolis. I married my first husband in 2002 and my twin sons, Colton and Calvin (Walters) were born in September of 2002. We had our daughter, Carrera, in August of 2006. I started a daycare business in my home in October of that year. After a divorce (2011) I obtained my Community Psychology degree at SCSU in 2013. David Buchin and I married in 2015. We had William in 2016 and Laura in 2019. I have continued my daycare business and am approaching 20 years as a daycare provider. In 2020 I started a second business as a Parenting Consultant. I am planning to attend graduate school in the near future for Marriage and Family Therapy.

How long have you been attending FPC? Before that, where have you attended? I started attending FPC in 2013 with David. As a young child we attended Gethsemane Lutheran church in Upsala, MN. As a preteen and teenager I attended Pentecostal and Assembly of God churches.

What are your favorite pastimes/hobbies? I am a huge fan of karaoke! I spend a lot of time with friends. I have always enjoyed reading and read primarily nonfiction. I also love to write. As a family we enjoy camping. I also enjoy kayaking, walking and hiking.

What are some small things that brighten your day? I absolutely love coffee! I love my morning walk. The perfect day includes sitting outside with a friend or a good book and my journal, and hanging out with my kids and David.

What is a Bible verse that holds deep meaning for you? Matthew 22:36-39. 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" 38 This is the first and greatest 1.commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

What is something people would be surprised to learn about you? I am obsessed with house plants and they have taken over our home. Some of them are very old.

What do you love most about our church? I love how everyone is so genuinely friendly. I always feel welcome. My kids also are very comfortable and feel at home at FPC.

If someone sat down with you for coffee, what would you want to talk about? I love talking about religion, psychology, philosophy and politics. I especially love learning about people and hearing about their own life experiences and opinions. I love meeting new people.

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee partners with Hope Covenant's People to People program to feed our neighbors throughout the summer.

On the third Saturday of the month, anyone in need can come to Hope and receive groceries, fresh produce, bread, social services, and often clothes or kid's books. In the summer months when they offer produce, people line up an hour in advance. We serve around 100 people/families in one hour.

We see a mix of senior citizens, families, and young single people. Often the same people come every month. Everyone is so grateful for what we provide.

Throughout the summer, we are collecting donations of peanut butter and cereal. If you are able, we would be grateful if you could toss one of those items in your shopping cart a couple times throughout the summer and bring it to church.

Thank you for supporting our mission programs!

Submitted by Rhonda Siltman

Save the Date

What: Presbytery Of Minnesota Valley Quarterly Meeting at our church

When: Saturday, September 12

Time: 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

What we are responsible for:

- Checking in registrants (60-80) at 9-10 a.m.
- Morning coffee, juice, and ??
- Lunch (paid by registrants)
- Light refreshments before departure

Who are the helpers: Church volunteers will be asked to add their names on the sign-up board in the West entry closer to the time of the event. More specific needs and details will also be in the August Tower.

Submitted by Bobbie Lampi

THANK YOU!

Thank you to my church family for celebrating my high school graduation with me. Your prayers, encouragement, kindness, and thoughtful gifts have meant so much to me. I am grateful for your support as I begin this next chapter of my life at University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. -Aki Rebeck

Deacon's Corner

Summer, a time to relax and unwind. I can remember as a kid, sliding down a hot metal slide and trying to only burn off the first layer of skin off the back of my legs before someone finally got the hose to put on the slide. Summer was a time when we could rest and get a way from everything.

Jesus also invites us to rest in Him. It is an invitation to find peace, relief and spiritual renewal by trusting in His grace. "Rest in the Lord" is a frequently used expression in the Bible. This refers to a spiritual rest from confusion, worry and stress.

In Matthew 11:28 Jesus says, "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest."

This summer and always, I invite you to find moments when you can rest in Jesus. Whether it is taking a walk or sitting in prayer. Give all your worries and good news to Jesus, He wants to hear it from you!

The good things Jesus has planned for your life are so much better than you can imagine. All you have to do is rest in Him.

Peace and restfulness to all.
Carrie Butter



Scholarships

- The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce this year's scholarship recipients. The following members were awarded \$3,800.00 each:
- Bella Brandt, Broderick Espelien, Aki Rebeck, Bailey Seaman and Carrera Walters
- Congratulations students!!

A New Look for the Tower

As we transition to a new church publishing software, we appreciate your patience and grace as the staff learns this program together.

Finance Committee

Updated Policy for Handling Church Funds

The Session is pleased to share that we have adopted a formal policy for how funds are handled here at First Presbyterian Church. Whether it's the Sunday offering, flower orders, community meal donations, or any of our fundraising events, this policy puts clear, consistent procedures in place for every dollar that comes through our doors.

So why a written policy? Two big reasons: transparency and protection. We want every member of the congregation to know how their contributions are being cared for, and we want to make sure the volunteers and staff who handle those funds are protected too. When there are clear rules in place, no one is ever put in an uncomfortable position.

Here are the key points:

The two-person rule is at the heart of the policy. All funds are counted and verified by two unrelated individuals, both of whom sign off on the count. This protects both the funds and the people handling them.

All funds are secured in the safe at the end of each day they are received and counted by the Count Team before being deposited at the bank.

These same procedures apply to every activity — Sunday offerings, flower orders, plant certificates, community meals, ticketed events, and anything new that comes along. One set of rules for everything.

The full policy is available through the church office if you'd like to read it. We're grateful for the generosity of this congregation, and we want to make sure we're handling every gift with the care and accountability it deserves.

	May	Year to Date
Revenue	\$ 28,250	\$ 201,763
Expenses	\$ 29,191	\$ 169,711
Over/Under	\$ (941)	\$ 32,052



Otto Dallmann Sculptor

The side not always seen...

FPC's 2026 began with paying off our building loan! A major accomplishment - especially with the new entrance and elevator on the 5th Ave side being both practical and aesthetic. However let us not forget the architecture and beauty of the 4th Ave side! From the massive oak doors and granite bell tower to the circular courtyard, it inspires a sense of awe and wonderment. And...have you ever wondered about the sculpture of the Christ residing there?

It was carved by Otto Dallmann. This renowned sculpture and artist (1907-2006) was born in Sanborn, MN, evidently moving to St. Cloud in 1916. He trained at the Minneapolis institute of Arts and also studied in New York before returning to study at the St. Cloud Teacher's College. He taught and lectured until retiring in 1964, but continued with his passion. Much of his work was devoted to churches and museums (including a stone carving at First United Methodist Church here in St. Cloud).

The Christ Sculpture on our elevator tower, designed and created by Dallmann in 1968-69 is 3' X 6', and depicts an open-armed and welcoming image of Jesus, His feet resting on a stone as He stands in front of a massive cross. To His right is a scallop shell, which commonly symbolizes baptism; to His left - wheat and grapes, symbolizing communion. Below the stone - an open Bible. One has to surmise that the work hits all the basics!

Recently, a granddaughter of Dallmann donated a beautiful wooden carving to our church. On display in the church office, it resembles a wine cask-like tablet, and opens to reveal St. Francis of Assisi, a small deer at his feet and, presumably, a dove of peace in hand. A photograph of Dallmann working on this very sculpture was believed to be taken in the 1950s!

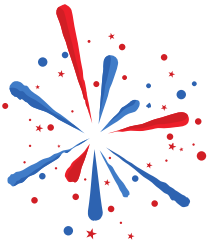
Both of these amazing works are definitely worth a moment of reflection.

Mike Rutter and Kristina Schaab, May 2026



Service Group - July

Chairs - Bobbie Lampi and Randy/Arlene Wickmann



David/Rachel Buchin	Don/Karen Ondracek
Bill/Karen Ferkinhoff	Linda Sarff
Steve/Barb Isaacson	Leroy/Paula Tift
Sandy Johnson	

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)
July 5	Bobbie Lampi	Nancy Coleman & Lori Smith	Ken/Norine Schmitt
July 12	Nancy Horn	Mike/Kim Tollefson	Betty Payne
July 19	Tami Calhoun	Leroy/Paula Tift	Jan Larson & Lois Buchin
July 25	Dick Andzenge	John Hoffman & Dan Owen	Phil/Jeanne Chu
August 2	Stephanie Merrill	John/Sharon Johnson	John Detra
August 9	Gene Williamson	Mike Rutter/Gail Aalderks	Randy/Kathy Arnold
August 16	Jackie Benn	Phil/Jeanne Chu	Linda Bettison
August 23	Brenda Espselien	Lynn Rae Olson & Carrie Raiche	Mikie/Kim Tollefson
August 30	Linda Bettison	Jeannie Duninck & Duane Scherbing	Leroy/Paula Tift

Sunday Opening & Closing

Date	Name	Date	Name
July 5	Paula Tift	August 2	Jackie Benn
July 12	Mike Rutter	August 9	Marsha Elg
July 19	Thijin Gatwech	August 16	Mike Tollefson
July 26	John Johnson	August 23	Charlie Pentz
		August 30	vacant

Sunday Pulpit Supply

July 5	Jamie Deering	August 2	Jamie Deering
July 12	Reverend Michael Hartwell	August 9	Reverend Dr. Jon Armajani
July 19	Andy Edwards	August 16	Reverend Wayne Anderson
July 26	CRE Gordon Pennertz	August 23	Reverend Bobbi Bell
		August 30	Reverend Joan Priest

Tristin Hample	July 1
Robert Hobson	July 1
Mariah Rothstein	July 1
Chase Donaghue	July 2
Sebastian Cabrera	July 3
Betsy Hayenga	July 3
Cindy Justin	July 5
Gene Williamson	July 5
Brea Corrigan	July 6
Morrison Lavictoire	July 6
Maximilian Cabrera	July 9
Nathan Hounkpati	July 11
David Buchin	July 12
Brenda Espelien	July 12

July Birthdays



Erica Smith	July 13
Cole Hedlund	July 15
Sandy Moorhouse	July 17
Andrew Giese	July 18
Susan Stocker	July 20
Sarah Hoogendoorn	July 21
Zachary Ruble	July 21
NeSe Andzenge	July 23
David Pennertz	July 23
Samantha Handley	July 24
George Hontos	July 26
Edward Bavery	July 27
Julee Sticha	July 30

First Presbyterian Church

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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

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!*

July 2026**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 Alderks, 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