

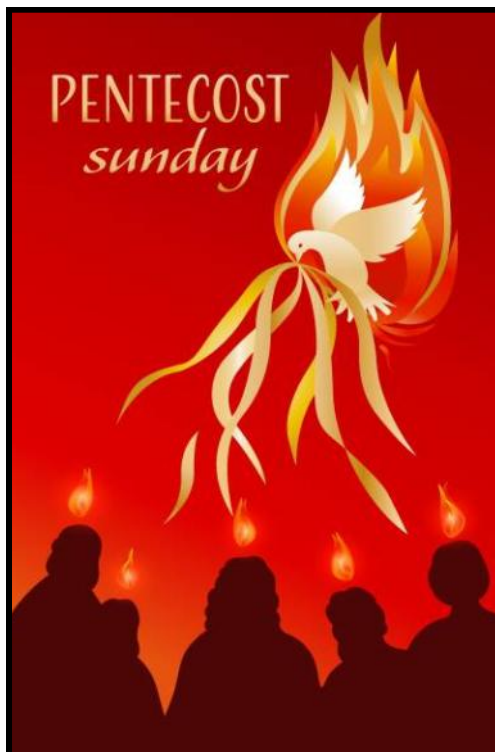
The Tower

May 2026

Pentecost—May 24

We celebrate the Day of Pentecost on Sunday, May 24. Pentecost originally began as the Jewish Festival of Weeks (See Ex. 23:14-17) as a harvest festival 50 days after Passover. Christians around the world celebrate it 50 days after the resurrection of Christ, when the Holy Spirit came to the church. If you are able, wear red to church.

We will also celebrate Pastor Darin's time as our Pastor. At the close of the service, there will be a congregational meeting to dissolve the relationship between Pastor Darin and First Presbyterian Church. After the meeting, we'll move downstairs for a catered meal together.



Office Hours

Starting June 1, the office hours will be changed from 8:30 am—1:30 pm Monday thru Thursday. While someone may be here after 1:30 pm, we would ask that you try to arrive before 1:30 pm. If you need to drop something off or get into the church building, simply call the church office to get a code.



First Presbyterian Church

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

Church Staff

REV. DARIN SEAMAN
Pastor

KRISTINA SCHaab
Administrative Assistant

JULLIAN EUTENEUER
Music Director

LORA HANSEN
Youth Director

BRAD JOHNSON
Facilities Coordinator

PATTY SCOTT
Custodian

DON ONDRACEK
Asst Custodian

Pastor's Reflections

By now you have most likely heard that I have resigned my position as pastor of First Presbyterian Church. My final Sunday at the church will be May 24. I am currently working with the Session and Personnel to determine my final date in the office. I am profoundly grateful for your support of our ministry and look forward to what God will accomplish⁽¹⁾ through your future ministry.



Rev. Darin Seaman

When I arrived in 2011, the Session was charged to emphasize five priorities in ministry. Those five included:

1. Affirm and nurture children, youth and young adults.

Over the years we have had our ups and downs with this part of our ministry. While I believe we are gaining traction in this area, we have more work to do. With Lora Hansen's guidance, I believe you will do this.

2. Affirm our commitment to our current building, understanding that our building must be updated and equipped for ministry in the downtown and university areas.

We completed a major project in my time here including a new main entrance, air conditioning for the sanctuary, parking upgrades, new electrical system, new roofing, new windows and many more. I don't take credit for that at all. This is something you should be proud of. The final debt payment for our main entrance was paid in January, 2026. We are now debt free.

3. Provide vibrant music and worship ministry that utilizes different styles, times, and venues for worship and involvement.

We hired a Director of Music twice in my time here. Each time, I believe we have increased our repertoire of music offerings. Currently, Jullian Euteneuer utilizes many small groups (Lowertown, Ring! Bell Choir, ensembles and sanctuary choir) to enhance our music ministry.

(1) See Ephesians 3:20-21.

4. Strive to become a “missional” church where mission becomes vital to a large cross-section of the church.

Led by our Mission and Social Witness Committee, this area of ministry remains strong. We support a mix of missions in our community and in the world. We also try to incorporate mission into our personal lives by the ways we serve outside the church.

5. Equip and empower the members and friends of the church to be ministers.

This one is hard to quantify but we have several people in our church who make ministry come alive. In a variety of ways, you help nurture and support ministry here at FPC. It is my hope that all of us will be active in supporting and serving the risen Christ in our midst. As a reminder, God doesn't need advisors. God desires faithful disciples.

In April, I met with the Session and gave them my recommendation. I believe they will need to do some long-term planning and spiritual discernment. What is the new context for ministry here? Who are our neighbors now? How is St. Cloud different now than it was in 2011? What is God doing in our neighborhood? These are the kinds of questions the leadership needs to address.

As my ministry comes to a close, I am thankful for your participation in the life of the church and in honoring Jesus Christ in this place. I am profoundly thankful for the ways you nurtured, disciplined and supported my family. I will fondly remember my time serving here.

The grace and peace of Christ be with you.

Darin

May Sermon Titles

May 3
TBD

May 10
“Woe to the Shepherds”
Ezekiel 34:1-10

May 17
“Ascension”
Acts 1:6-14

May 24 - Pentecost
“Ending and New Beginnings”
Acts 2:1-21

May 31
TBD

YOUTH

C.O.R.E Children's Ministry



April was a busy month for C.O.R.E.. We began our new series, Clue. Throughout this series the kids solved the mystery of the empty tomb. Pictures of the detectives on the case have been displayed on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Their “secret” talent has also been posted for all to bear witness.

We had a wonderful Easter celebration that was attended by 27 families outside of our church. We had an abundance of volunteers that made the event run smoothly. Thank you to all that helped make this outreach fun and engaging for all who attended.

May will be a busy month finishing up the school year and transitioning into our summer programs. Our last Sunday school for the year will be May 3rd. The last night of mid-week ministry will be the 29th of April. We will host the “Shine Your Light” banquet on the 17th of May.

Beginning in June we will host a family fun night every Monday from 6-8. This event is not just for those that have small children but for any family that would like to get to know other members or to help make community members that attend from outside our church feel welcome. Please check the website or Facebook for activities schedule. Activities will include movie outside, ice cream social, foam party, and karaoke to name a few.

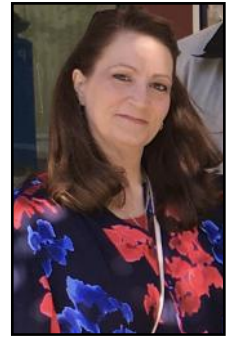
June 5th and 6th the youth have a Brat Sale at Cash Wise in Waite Park. All proceeds from this sale go to support the youth camping trips at Clearwater Forest this Summer.

Congratulations

Blessings and best wishes to Aki Rebeck (Sartell), Rickie Espelien (Sartell) and Bella Brandt (Becker) on your big achievement upon graduating from high school.



MUSIC



Summer Music Opportunities

It's hard to believe that summer is nearly here! With the change of season comes a wonderful opportunity to continue making music together in a more relaxed and joyful way. I'm excited to share several opportunities for everyone to stay involved and connected through music this summer.

Closer Walk Men's Group

The Closer Walk men's ensemble will continue meeting throughout the summer, gathering once a week on Thursdays from 4:30–5:15 PM. This group enjoys singing four-part TTBB repertoire and shares their music in worship once a month, as well as for special occasions. New voices are always welcome—come join us for fellowship and song!

Songbirds

Songbirds is a women's choir that meets once a week during the summer months. In the past, this group has shared their music in one service in June, but this year I would love to expand their involvement to sing once a month throughout the summer. Rehearsals are often held in members' homes, creating a relaxed and welcoming environment that allows time for both music-making and meaningful fellowship.

Summer Song Leaders and Musicians

If you are interested in sharing your musical gifts this summer, I invite you to sign up! There is a sign-up sheet outside my office for anyone who would like to participate in leading music during a service. You are welcome to lead the songs for worship, play an instrument, or both—whatever gifts you feel called to share to enhance our worship together.

Parents and children are strongly encouraged to share music in worship together! I would be happy to help select music and rehearse with you.

Please give me a call if you are ready to be part of the amazing music programming here at First Presbyterian Church! I would love to help you find the perfect way to get involved.

Jullian Euteneuer
Music Director



Who's Who in the Pew?

Tell us about yourself .

My name is John Carl Johnson. I grew up in Wilton, a small town in central North Dakota. We lived in an apartment above Johnson Drug.

I went to college at the University of North Dakota. My goal was to go into physical therapy. My counselor suggested I add pre-med. I don't remember having considered being a physician before that. Pre-med eventually changed to a teaching degree. I taught junior and high school science for 4 years. Then I went to medical school at University of North Dakota. My 3 year internal medicine residency was in Milwaukee, WI. I accepted an internal medicine position at the St. Cloud Clinic of Internal Medicine (a predecessor to CentraCare) in 1989. I spent 1/3 of my time in the hospital and the rest in the clinic. We were the hospitalists before the hospitalist program. Working in the ICU, medical/surgical floor, and emergency room. 5 years before my retirement, I practiced in the clinic only. I had a chance to spend more time learning about my patients gardening techniques. It was difficult to say goodbye to many of them. Many were my friends for 20-30 years. I retired 3 years ago and am enjoying my free time. I have a part time job with the medical school.



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

I have attended First Presbyterian Church St Cloud since 1990 and Sharon and I were married here in 1991. Our three children were baptized and confirmed in our church and two were married at First Presbyterian St Cloud.

I attended First Presbyterian Church of Wilton growing up. There were several very dedicated Sunday school teachers and youth leaders at my home church. I feel that this biblical education was quite good. The faith they exhibited was exceptional. They were Christian role models that I would converse with a couple times a year over the next 50 years when returning to visit my home church.

Share anything you wish about your family/children .

Sharon and I were blessed with 3 children. Colin is an ER physician, Evan is an Orthopedic surgeon, Katrina is a Family Practice physician. We are proud of the well-rounded adults they have become, the spouses they love, and of course our three wonderful granddaughters.

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

In the early 1980's (during the Cold War), I traveled through East Germany with a military friend. We traveled by car and stopped at several checkpoints where Russian soldiers would check passports and leave my friend standing in the hot sun for quite a while, even though there were no other vehicles traveling.

It was a strange feeling. We arrived in West Berlin, an island of democracy, and crossed by bus through Checkpoint Charlie to East Berlin. My friend asked me my opinion of the cars driving on the street. He pointed out they were made of plywood. After returning to West Berlin, we drove to a more remote residential area where we could see over the Berlin Wall. We could easily see the guard towers, the binoculars on us, the guard dogs pacing behind different sections of barbed wire fenced areas. A sign 15 feet in front of the concrete wall said, Don't step past this point. I could see a drooping completely rusted single string of barbed wire 5 feet past that sign. Youthful indiscretion took hold and I stepped past that sign and gathered a 5 foot section of what I think was the original Iron Curtain. The 69yr old me would not do that now. What remains of that wire is a reminder to me of the great benefit that I have as a citizen of the USA. Thank God for our freedom heritage.

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

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. That verse was prominently framed in large print behind the pulpit at First Presbyterian in Wilton, ND.

What are favorite pastimes/hobbies of yours?

I enjoy gardening and landscaping. Since retiring, I have started playing banjo and guitar.

What are small things that brighten your day?

I wake up each morning, walk into the living room and Sharon is reading a book. We share a cup of coffee and watch the sunrise and check out the morning wildlife on the lake. Life is good.

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

I would love to have my parents at our table with our children and their families enjoying conversation together. I would reminisce with my dad about old ND hunting trips. And I would love to make a Swedish tea ring again with my mother. I could not ask for better role models. I miss them, but I trust in John 3:16.



Deacon's Corner

May is a month we celebrate Mothers. So...What is a Mother?

Per Webster: "Primarily a female parent, encompassing biological, adoptive, step-or foster relationships, who often nurtures, cares for, and protects a child"

As I reflect on this Mother's Day, I remember my Mother with admiration, awe, and love. She truly was the model example of nurturing, caring and protection. Even though she passed into the Lord's loving arms six years ago, I think of her and miss her every day. Her influence lives on in me: From the way my relationship with God is strong to the traditions of making rosettes and krumkake during Christmas to making potato soup when a snowstorm is on it's way. (which I just did!) I looked up to her, as I felt she could do anything and was afraid of nothing. Elsie Melby taught her girls, my 2 sisters and me, to work hard and be true to ourselves. Thank you, Mom!

Whether your biological mother is still present in your life or not, we all have "Mothers" in our lives today that nurture, care and protect us. These amazing moms come in all forms, and hold special places in our hearts. Each teaches and influences us in ways that we may not realize until they are not with us, physically, any more.

So, I encourage you, during this month of May, and every day, to take extra time in your day(s) to seek out All the "moms" in your life. Hug them, pray with and for them, tell them you love them and say a prayer of thanks to God for their impact on your lives.

Happy Mother's Day to ALL.

Kim Melby Tollefson



First Friday Concert Series

Join us on Friday, May 1 here at church from 7:00 - 8:15 pm to enjoy an evening of world-class music with Grammy-winning guitarist Pat Donohue and a cast of his talented friends. Tickets can be purchased on-line at the GCFS (www.granitecityfolk.org) home page.



Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Our March Food Drive was another successful, and very welcomed, mission! Approx. 450 lbs. of canned & dry foods, tissue & paper towels, baking goods, and cleaning supplies were donated. These were sorted and distributed in early April. Recipients this round included The Salvation Army, Place of Hope, and, especially thankful – Catholic Charities! And we, the Deacons, thank the congregation.



Annual Spring Luncheon

Mark your calendars! Pick out a lovely spring outfit, add a dab of lipstick, and join us for our **Annual Spring Luncheon and Style Show** benefitting **Anna Marie's Alliance**. Join us to celebrate the month of mothers and mother figures with a light lunch and heartfelt fellowship as we support our local shelter for battered women and their children. Reservations are available for both **in-person** and **curbside pick-up** options.

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2026
 11:00 am – 11:30 am – Curbside Pick-Up
 11:30 am – In-Person Seating begins

Reservations
 \$20 – LIMITED In-Person Seating
 \$15 – Spring Luncheon TO-GO Pack



All proceeds benefit **Anna Marie's Alliance**, whose mission is "to create a community where violence is not tolerated, and where every home is a safe one."

Watch for more ways to contribute to this FUNdraiser.

For more information or to get involved, contact Brenda Espelien (320) 291-5084.



Service Group — May

Chairs - John Hoffman and Duane & Darlene Scherbing

Joan	Anderson	Mark/Mary	Giese
Laura	Berg	Yao/ Noelie	Hounkpati
Kristin	Brandt	Larry/Ruby	Olson
Carol	Dirks	Ken/Norine	Schmitt

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.

	Worship Leader	Ushers (2)	Greeter (1/2)
05/03/26	Jackie Benn	John Bowden & John Hoffman	Randy/Kathy Arnold
05/10/26	Carrie Butter	Lynn Rae Olson/Carrie Raiche	John Detra
05/17/26	Michelle Chan	Ron/Karen Larson	Jan Larson/Lois Buchin
05/24/26	Rhonda Siltman	Gail Aalderks/Mike Rutter	Stephanie Randolph
05/31/26	Bobbie Lampi	Duane Scherbing & Lori Smith	Lynn Rae Olson/Carrie Raiche
06/07/26	Rachel Buchin	Randy/Kathy Arnold	Kari Ahles
06/14/26	Bob Butter	Phil/Jeannie Chu	Nancy Coleman
06/21/26	Rickie Espelien	Linda Bettison & John Detra	Joe/Stephanie Jacobs
06/28/26	Mary Jost	Joe/Stephanie Jacobs	Karen Larson

Sarff, Ric	05/05	Ramsey, Don	05/20
Yogerst, Jilleen	05/07	Andzenge, Kadoon	05/22
Shaler, Wendy	05/08	Eggers, John	05/24
Giese, Adam	05/12	Corrigan, Kelsey	05/25
Giese, Eli	05/12	Gibbs, Sandra	05/28
Buchin, Rachel	05/13	Johnson, John	05/28
Hample, Luci	05/15	Larson, Jan	05/29
Seaman, Shauna	05/15	Toohey, David	05/29
Seaman, Brynn	05/19	Hammond, Randy	05/30
Brockway, Cathi	05/20	Brandt, Kristin	05/31
		Watkins, Don	05/31





Why do we pass the offering plates during the Easter service?

I was asked this question several times since Easter. Many family and friends worship with us at this service, which is WONDERFUL! I love to see old friends and kids that grew up in the church.

An average Sunday plate offering is \$40.00 to \$80.00 per Sunday. The plate offering is the cash put into the plate without a name. On Easter, we received almost \$500.00 in the plate offering. In addition, we received over \$1,900.00 of Easter offerings. This figure includes \$1,400.00 giving by our members. The remaining \$500.00 was from guests.

If we didn't pass the plate, would these guests have put their donations into the offering plates at the back of the church? It is difficult to determine this. Some would donate; however, I suspect many would walk out without donating. I was an usher Easter Sunday and noticed as the plate came to the guests, many pulled out their wallets on the spot and donated.

Next question: Why don't we pass the plate every Sunday? With the change in giving patterns, people may feel uncomfortable with passing the plates if they give a different way. Ten years ago, most of our funds (over 75%) came through the offering plate. Times have changed: online giving continues to increase and RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) giving from investments continues to be a large portion of our funds. Approximately 65% comes from these other sources.

No matter the source of giving, we are TRULY blessed with the generosity of our members. Thank you!!

Karen Ondracek, Treasurer

Financials	March	YTD
Contributions	32,420	138,724
Expenses	31,476	107,755
New Over/Under	944	30,969

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"*

Address Correction Requested

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Starting June 1st

**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!*

MAY 2026

SESSION

Pastor Darin Seaman, Moderator
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