

# The Tower

June 2022



## Confirmation (June 5)

Join us on June 5 as we celebrate the achievements of our confirmation class. For two years this class has been meeting via Zoom and in person to learn more about the faith we profess. Through 34 sessions, this class has explored the basics of our faith to some of the confessions that we utilize. A brief reception will held after worship in fellowship hall.

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## Pentecost (June 5)



On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. (See Acts 2:1-13; see also Joel 2:28-32.)

The notion of Easter as a season of 50 days ending at Pentecost is patterned after the ancient Jewish festival of seven weeks that extended from the beginning of the barley harvest (on the second day after the beginning of Passover) to the end of the wheat harvest at the Festival of Weeks or *Shavuot* (see Deuteronomy 16:9-12). The Festival of Weeks later came to be called Pentecost ("50th day") by Greek speaking Jews. In Jewish tradition, Shavuot also marks the giving of the law to Moses at Sinai; this liturgical link may inform Paul's discussions of the law and the Spirit (see Romans 8, 2 Corinthians 3 and Galatians 3).



## 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

DON FORTNER  
Music Director

MARY NOTHNAGEL  
Administrative Assistant

PATTY SCOTT  
Custodian

NATE SALGREN  
Facilities Coordinator

## Pastor's Reflections

On Sunday, June 5 our confirmation students will be standing before the congregation professing their faith in Jesus Christ. The students will commit to membership in the church and be received into the body. We will also be celebrating Pentecost on that particular day.

It is fitting that the two celebrations coincide. Pentecost shares the story of the Spirit's inbreaking on the gathered community. Confirmation celebrates the Spirit breaking into the lives of younger disciples. Both remain a mystery.

I find confirmation to be a celebratory and challenging occasion. It is indeed celebratory as we share with the congregation two years of work and study. The students have worked hard to get to this point in their ministry. But, I find myself asking questions, "Have I done enough to prepare them as disciples? Even though we have covered all of the material is there something else that we need to share?" While those questions linger, I am reminded that the Spirit will move in their lives and I can't control that. I can only try to help them discern what the Spirit might be saying or doing.

Starting a confirmation class in the midst of a pandemic was not easy. The students adapted to a year of confirmation online. The second year we began meeting in person and the class seemed to flow a bit better.

I am grateful to Paula Tift for helping me teach the class. We made it through 34 lessons and online disruptions. We made it through challenges most confirmation classes have never endured. The curriculum and our theology would remind us that we didn't make it through – the Triune God provided a way.

Congratulations to the following students:

- Bella Brandt, child of God and daughter of Kristin and Jeremy Brandt
- Rickie Espelien, child of God and son of Brenda and Jay Espelien
- Andrew Giese, child of God and son of Mary and Mark Giese
- Gavin Owen, child of God and son of Julia and Dan Owen
- Aki Rebeck, child of God and daughter of Tomoko and Ken Rebeck
- Bailey Seaman, child of God and daughter of Shauna and Darin Seaman

The grace and peace of Christ be with you.



## Rev. Darin Seaman



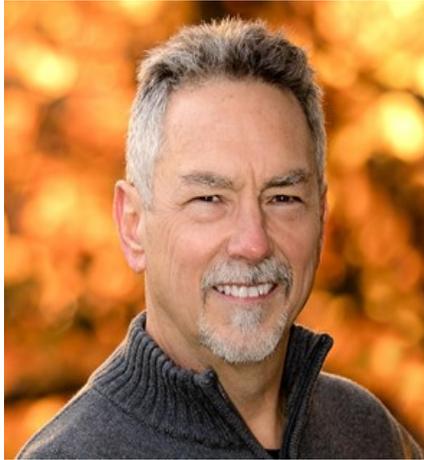
### June Sermon Titles

**June 5 - Confirmation Sunday & Pentecost**  
 "All Were Amazed"  
 Acts 2:1-21

**June 12 - Trinity Sunday**  
 "Suffering and Hope"  
 Romans 5

**June 19**  
 Jake Anderson Wycliffe Bible Translators

**June 26**  
 "Resistance"  
 Exodus 1:8-2:10

**Don Fortner****Music Director**

**Email:** [donfortner@fpcstcloud.org](mailto:donfortner@fpcstcloud.org)

At First Presbyterian, St. Cloud, we are blessed with many gifted people embedded in our congregation that we recognize as artistic contributors to our worship and church life. And I truly celebrate all these people. These are the people I know. They have come forward, made themselves known to me, and shared their skills and abilities. And I can make requests of them to enrich our worship experience.

There are also many among us who have talents that relate to organization, administration and promotion. You might feel uncomfortable singing or reading music—but these are only parts of a music program that are obvious. There is much work that goes on behind the scenes to prepare and maintain our music library, social media posting for our concert series and hosting/ushering at the First Friday's events. I am asking all of you to prayerfully consider your gifts. What tasks and pursuits bring you joy? Do you paint, draw, write, dance? Are you gifted at organizing, design, social media, marketing, teaching? A vibrant music and arts program includes people of all talents and gifts. What "hat" can you wear and share as we continue to develop our program of music and arts.

A part of my calling at First Presbyterian is to encourage, support and mentor individuals or groups to grow their spiritual gifts. This, I hope and pray, will enable comfort and confidence to share gifts, add depth to a disciples spiritual journey, increase pathways for outreach of our church, and map a closer walk with God through the connections and joy in our fellowship and worship.

Summer is here for 2022 and the music leadership during worship is led by soloists and instrumentalists. Please sign up for a Sunday and share your gift of music. [donfortner@fpcstcloud.org](mailto:donfortner@fpcstcloud.org) Subject: Summer Music

The **First Fridays at First** series continues for the Summer, featuring the following musicians:

June 3 @ 7pm: Kat Blu

July 1 @ 7pm: Rupert Wales

Aug. 5 @ 7pm: Mike Karl & Lowertown

Concerts will be ticketed events ranging from \$15 - \$25.

Tickets purchased in advance will be a bit less expensive but will incur a handling fee through EventBright.

## Camp Fundraisers

### **\$10 Certificates to Pattison Farm Greenhouse**

For sale before and after church – see Lori Smith

### **Cash Wise Waite Park Brat Cook Out**

Friday, June 17 starting at 11am

Saturday, June 18 starting at 11am

Head over to Cash Wise in Waite Park to support our campers and get a delicious brat lunch!

FPC has six campers that will be attending Clearwater Forest for the Endless Summer program week which runs the last week of July – please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for, and attend, Bible Camp this summer.

## Volunteers Needed

We are starting the search for next year's Sunday School teachers now.

If interested in teaching or just interested in learning more about the opportunities that exist, please email Tomoko Rebeck at [torebe11@hotmail.com](mailto:torebe11@hotmail.com)

Sunday School for Pre-K to High School Youth will resume in September.

Watch for Sunday School registration/kick-off dates later this summer.

We are looking for an additional member or two to join the Children, Youth and Family Ministry Committee.

Anyone who is interested is welcome to reach out to Tomoko Rebeck at [torebe11@hotmail.com](mailto:torebe11@hotmail.com).

We would really love it if we could get some male perspective on the committee so Dads, Uncles, Grandpas, etc. are encouraged to join.

## Shine Your Light

**Congratulations to all the youth of the church** who celebrated their milestones and accomplishments from the past year at the Shine Your Light event, which was held May 22.

## College Ministry

The last Grocery BINGO was successful with 11 students present.

Youth had prepared a total of 40 Finals Week Care Packages which were all given away. The student recipients received two bags each – one to keep and one to pass on to a fellow student.

If you have ideas or connections on how to reach college students in the coming school year, please reach out to Tomoko at [torebe11@hotmail.com](mailto:torebe11@hotmail.com) to share your ideas/information or to help out.

## With Much Gratitude

**Thank you to all of our Sunday School teachers and Confirmation Class Leaders** for their efforts in helping our youth learn about God's love and His teachings in the Bible. The teachers volunteered many hours planning and executing activities/lessons over the last nine months and we appreciate them so much! Thank you all for nurturing the growth of our children and being part of the village that is guiding them on their faith journeys!

**Thank you to all of the Children, Youth and Family Ministry Committee members** for planning and hosting activities, helping in the search for a new Youth Director and for taking on additional tasks during the interim until the position is filled!

**Thanks to all the volunteers and congregation members who made the Shine Your Light event** possible and helped make it a special time to celebrate the youth in our congregation.

**Thank you to all who helped with, and attended, the May 18 Wednesday Night Dinner event.** We raised \$269.00 with proceeds donated to F.A.C.T.

## Family Camp Opportunity

Clearwater Forest is hosting the Family Creative Arts Festival programming week from July 31 through August 6.

Information can be found at [www.FCAFestival.com](http://www.FCAFestival.com)



## Who is Spiritual Director, Jamie Deering?

Who am I and where did I come from? These are often asked questions of me.

Six months ago, I took a giant leap and moved to Minnesota from Washington state where I'd lived for nearly 40 years. I have two grown children, Matt and Annie. Matt lives in Seattle, and Annie is in Roseville.

I came here to join an intentional intergenerational spiritual community. (You might reread that sentence and then have questions!) I live with three Franciscan Sisters, and a young adult for the purpose of forming healthy relational community. A chosen family, if you will. For me, moving here was the culmination of a 7-month sabbatical where I lived into the question: What's next for me, Lord? My family and friends were all surprised at the nudge to move to an intentional community here in St. Cloud. The story of how God opened the path for me to be here is lovely and too long for this writing. I'm happy to share over coffee/tea. For me, it has felt like coming home in new and wondrous ways. To arrive so quickly at home here at First Presbyterian has been a delightful surprise! Sharing gifts of music and spiritual direction brings me great joy. People often ask if I'm staying, and my immediate enthusiastic response is – absolutely.

You may not know that my vocation is a spiritual director and contemplation leader. As you might have experienced in worship, I'm also a music leader. I've been involved in heading up music programs in Presbyterian churches for over 30 years. I've practiced and led contemplation groups and retreats for over 20 years. I've companioned others on the spiritual journey as a spiritual director for over 10 years. Additionally, I have degrees in music and business and a master's degree in teaching. In 2018, I returned from serving in the Peace Corps in Macedonia. My life is passionately dedicated to spiritual formation, in myself and with others.

Many people may not understand what spiritual direction is. It's a one-on-one time of listening into the events, thoughts, behaviors, and feelings of your life to discern what God is nudging for growth, healing and release. We all put up barriers that keep us from knowing and extending Divine Love in us and through us into the world. I walk with others to break down barriers so that a deeper faith can be lived. People who pursue spiritual direction often experience reconciliation of relationships and a fuller sense of being present in God's Love. One-on-one sessions can be in person, via Zoom or phone. There is a sliding fee scale for spiritual direction. Finances are never a barrier to participating. I will work with you to make it possible.

As a contemplation leader, my favorite myth to dispel is the idea that meditation is about arriving at no thoughts ("Zen" space) or to a specific experience. Contemplation rather, is an ancient Christian practice of meditation that helps you meet and open your thoughts and feelings in a steeped sense of Divine Presence. I love the practice of contemplation precisely because I get to be with my thoughts and feelings as I develop the ability to be with and then release them all rather than master them. I relish the sense of releasing that which keeps me from offering a compassionate presence to others through knowing God's compassion in me. If you've not tried contemplation before, I heartily encourage you to come to a session.

Soon, I'll begin to offer a weekly online time of contemplation. There will be a small fee. Church-offered groups will continue to be at no cost. My website is <https://soulsticcoach.com/> with more information about my practice.

Answering questions is one of my favorite things to do. If you have them, let's chat! Call me 360.335.5595 or email [jamie@soulsticcoach.com](mailto:jamie@soulsticcoach.com) and we'll set up a time.

## Finances

April Contributions	\$ 40,966.93
April Expenses	\$ 32,894.15
Over/under	\$ 8,072.78
 YTD over/under	 \$ 38,402.52



On behalf of the Mission Committee, I would like to thank everyone that contributed to the Egg-Stravaganza with Hope Covenant last month. The breakfast kits were a big success. Needless to say, we ran out of food. Everyone that participated loved the meal kit idea. Thank you again for making this great opportunity available to our neighbors.

This is a ministry from Hope to help people in our church neighborhood to be given a meal and take advantage of a variety of programs to help them improve their lives. There is an event every other month.

The next event will be on June 18 at Hope Covenant Church from 10 to 12. There will be local produce provided by Target and local farmers. This time the theme is "Italian Night". Jennie-O is providing one-pound of bulk Italian sausage for every family. Our church will provide spaghetti, pasta sauce and Parmesan cheese. We have upped our number to provide 60 meal kits. All we ask is a freewill offering from our congregation to purchase the food we are providing. You can place your offering in the offering plate with "Italian Night" either on the check or on the envelope.

Again, the committee thanks you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Darlene Scherbing.

## Please Welcome Jake & Gina Anderson

We are hosting Jake and Gina Anderson on June 19. The two are missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Brazil. Gina was born and raised in Sauk Rapids, while Jake moved to MN when he was 10. Jake and Gina have four children, three of whom were born in Brazil, where they have lived and served for the last 14 years. Jake's job as a pilot allows him the opportunity to take Bible translators and other missionaries to remote locations in Brazil's wetlands and Amazon rainforest. Please welcome them in worship.



### *Who's Who in the Pew?*

I was born in Fargo, North Dakota, and raised on my parent's dairy and grain farm near Mapleton, North Dakota. My only sibling was a younger brother, Eugene, whom I lost in 2018.

I graduated from Mapleton School District as Valedictorian of my class; later that year I became the local Community Queen with representation at the Miss North Dakota Pageant, where my talent was playing the piano. The next year I won first runner up in the North Dakota State Dairy Princess Contest. I went on to study business, for one year, at Jamestown College (a Presbyterian Affiliate).

### **Margaret Brooks**



It was there I met my husband. Unfortunately my college career was cut short when our 35-head registered guernseys and barn were destroyed in a fire. I returned home and went to work as a bank teller in West Fargo. We married in 1961 and lived in a number of towns in Montana and North Dakota where my husband was a high school and college educator. Our first child, Traci, was born in 1964 and our son, David, was born in 1968. I finished my college education in 1979 by graduating from Minot State University with a degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice, while maintaining a job outside the home. We built a house, doing the actual building ourselves, south of Minot, which was quite a learning experience for us all.

We divorced after 22 years of marriage and in 1987, I moved to McAllen, TX, where my parents spent winters. I worked for the school district in the Library Resource Center and taught English As a Second Language (ESL) to adults at a branch of Texas University on nights and Saturdays. Later I proudly moved on to being Secretary to the President of a local vegetable and fruit producer and shipper. My boss was also the Mayor of McAllen. I continued my ESL instructing when I moved to El Paso, Texas.

I moved to El Paso, Texas, to be near my daughter in 1998. I was also given the opportunity to belong to the Texas State Guard, which gave me a sense of what service to your community meant. Eleven years later, I moved to Lakeville, Minnesota, after my house in El Paso was burglarized three times. My son, David, who is a Doctor of Pharmacy, and his two sons live in Lakeville. The oldest grandson graduated from Hamline University and works in Eagan as a Senior Thought Leadership Analyst. The youngest grandson is graduating from University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire this May. Then in June of 2021, my daughter, Traci, retired from teaching 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades after 34 years in El Paso. She moved with her husband, Will, to Saint Cloud. They asked me to move in with them, and I joined them in September.

Some of my favorite pastimes have included being a professional poodle groomer for 32 years, having owned several myself. I enjoy having the company of a dog. My Yorkie, Oliver, was with me for 15 years before he passed away a short time ago. I now have a Yorkie named Olivia, who is a very special companion.

***Who's Who in the Pew?*** (continued)

I love to travel and have cruised to places such as the Panama Canal, Iceland, Canada, and Alaska, but my favorite places were Ireland and going to the Rose Parade with my daughter.

A Bible verse that is important to me is 1 Corinthians 13:13, because it was read at my wedding.

I have belonged to the Presbyterian Church USA wherever I have lived. I was an active Deacon for 4 years and a Ruling Elder for 12. I have sung in the choirs of each church in which I belonged, and played handbells in two.

My hobbies include crocheting, knitting, scrapbooking, card making, sewing, Red Hats, and gardening. Before retiring, my past hobbies included Macrame, wheel and slab pottery, hunting (water and land, including deer, antelope, and a moose).

Most people probably don't know that I used to ride my own motorcycle and that I have soloed a small Cessna airplane.

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**Deacons Corner****MAKING MEALS AGAIN**

Although not all places are open to serving meals, the Deacons have learned of a way to help distribute a meal for Anna Marie's Alliance meal programs. We hope to help the Place of Hope later in the year.

In July we will be preparing a sloppy-joe meal with a few sides such as potato salad, dill pickles, chips, watermelon, and bars for dessert. Buns will also be needed. The meals will be coordinated for the same day. We will then deliver it to Anna Marie's for them to serve the meal. Currently Anna Marie's serves about 30 people at a meal. We would like the congregation's assistance in donating and preparing food for us to take to each shelter. We will use the simple recipe of a can of Manwich to 1½ pounds of hamburger for the sloppy joes to keep it consistent. Potato Salad can be bought at the store along with the buns, dill pickles, chips and watermelon. Homemade (or store bought) bars will round out the meal. The food can be dropped off in the church kitchen, brought in disposable containers and the Deacons will deliver it.

Please call the church office to sign up to contribute food for this ministry program. The Deacons are so happy to be able to help our community in this small way with your help.

Thank you.

Norine Schmitt

## 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>
<b>June 5</b>	Confirmation Sun.	Gail Alderks/Dick Andzenge	Duane/Darlene S.
<b>June 12</b>	Linda Bettison	Phil/Jeannie Chu	Don/Jan Watkins
<b>June 19</b>	Landry Seaman	Bert/Jan East	Linda Bettison
<b>June 26</b>	Michelle Chan	Carrie Raiche/Lynn Rae Olson	Randy/Arlene W.



Karen Ferkinhoff	06/01	Inez Hornibrook	06/18
Aver Andzenge	06/02	Derek Nikodym	06/18
Tami Calhoun	06/02	Norine Schmitt	06/18
Hayle Donaghue	06/02	Crystal Wood	06/18
Jessica Nikodym	06/02	Ryan Nikodym	06/19
Marilyn Williamson	06/02	Ken Miller	06/20
Nolan Lund	06/03	Roger Minet	06/20
Amanda Christensen	06/04	Gavin Owen	06/20
Alex Smith	06/05	Daniel Trautman	06/20
Joseph Roberts	06/09	Callie Justin	06/21
Vicki Baston	06/10	John Pike	06/21
Natalie Matthewson	06/11	Nadine Hounkpati	06/23
Bentley Neumann	06/11	Landry Seaman	06/24
Roni Janssen	06/12	James Tingblad	06/26
Jeanne Duininck	06/15	Zakary Hutchison	06/29
Harlow Lahti	06/15	Larry Moorhouse	06/29
Bryon Otremba	06/16	June Rowland	06/29
Jean Tulkki	06/17		



# Thank You!

Sincere thanks to Pastor Darin, the Deacons, and dear friends at FPC for cards, telephone calls and prayers during the time we were recovering from surgeries. We appreciate so much our church family.

- John and Phyllis Bowden

Thank you for all the cards and words of support during the past few weeks. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated during this difficult time.

- Karen Ondracek

## Introducing our New Presbytery Executive

The Rev. Beth Buckwalter-Miller begins her work as our new Executive Presbyter June 1! Here is a short bio that the Search Team brought to the last presbytery meeting.

The Rev. Beth Buckwalter-Miller comes to us with a trio of impressive degrees: a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Colorado, a Master of Arts in Counseling from Colorado Christian University and a Master of Divinity from Denver Theological Seminary. These degrees, she

believes, uniquely prepared her “for the ministry by heightening (her) awareness of the needs we experience in body, mind and soul.” Her most current role since June 2010 has been pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Red Bluff in Red Bluff, CA. Prior to that Beth served as Associate Pastor, temporary supply at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Arvada, CO as well as Director of Children’s Ministry and Adult Spiritual Formation. Her Presbytery experience includes serving on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry; recently serving on a Presbytery Task force for “Connectional Revitalization” and Presbytery Council for the Sacramento Presbytery. At Trinity Presbyterian in Colorado, Beth served on the Committee on Ministry for the Denver Presbytery.



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Non-Profit Organization  
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 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**

**8:00 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!*

**JUNE 2022**

**SESSION**

Pastor Darin Seaman, Moderator  
 Bobbie 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 (Fellowship), Kim Tollefson (Personnel), Alvin Yu, Stephanie Randolph (Worship)

**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 Cimperman, Barb Isaacson

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