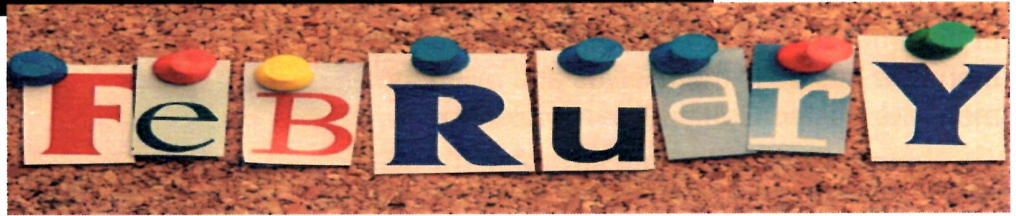


First Church News

Volume 12 issue 2

February, 2023

Chip's Chatter



Every now and then I come across and article or story that is worth passing along to our members. The "article" that follows is a work by my dear friend Lt Col Steve "Mike" Turoski, USAF (Ret). Mike is a very strong Christian and is probably my closest friend. We flew together in the Air National Guard and also with USAirways as airline pilots. His article is well worth reading and is encouraging to everyone, no matter the circumstance we face. Enjoy.

Throwing-in the towel-Document 27.....

18 March 2021

By Steve Turoski

"Throwing in the towel" Where does this saying come from? The phrase comes from boxing, in which a fighter indicates surrender by throwing a towel into the ring.

When I threw "in the towel", God Threw it back. He said "wipe your face, now is not the time to quit; we are almost there." What do you do when things are hopeless? Do you feel like "throwing in the towel?" Sometimes it may seem like quitting is the only option. Reconsider the circumstances surrounding your situation. Look to other clues for answers.

Have the faith to feel sure of God's Plan and path, that no matter how dark the situation, there will be no doubt of the outcome. Look forward to a glorious future. It might be a long way off, but have faith and take hope.

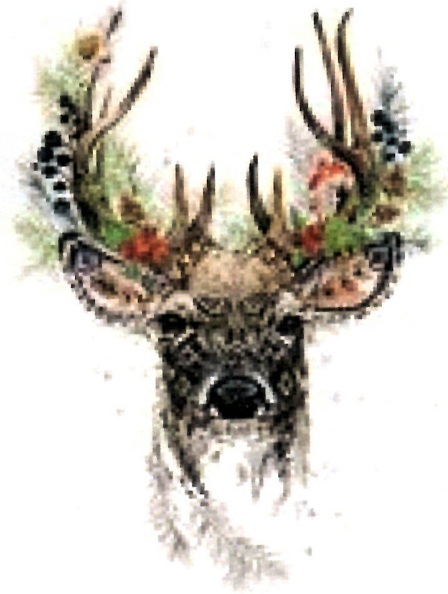
You can be sure this outcome will be a perfect fit to answering your question of surrender or

Victory. God is on the throne of our existence even when it seems like we are "on the mat" during the final count.

Consider the story of Gideon. Gideon was a leader, but too proud for God. God needed to refine and mold Gideon for his use. Through the angel of the Lord, He appeared to Gideon and told him that he was a mighty warrior and that God was with him. Gideon answered "How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manassa, and I the least in my family." The Lord answered "you will strike down your enemy leaving none alive". Wanting to be sure of God's words, Gideon asked for a sign. When we ask for verification that God is speaking, be ready for a powerful answer.

God's answers may not be "in line" with our thinking. God wants to give us victory using His provisions not our own. So, it was with Gideon. God showed him that victory was in God's hands not in Gideon's own strength. In those days, winning a battle required a larger army for victory. God's plan for Gideon was to reduce Gideon's numbers and let God have the victory. God reduced Gideon's troops from 32,000 to 10,000 and then to 300 men. How could 300 men win against the fierce Midianites with odds like these? God had a plan. If we listen to what God's plan directs, we will have victory over our enemies as did Gideon in this battle. It might seem that the battle plans that God issues are different than our battle strategies; nevertheless, follow them and God will give you success.

"My ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." God knows the present, and the future. Trust his guidance even though it might not make any sense to you at the time. The HOLY BIBLE is full of stories of men who trusted in themselves and failed, and men who trusted God and were victorious.



This is an article that was given to me by Pastor Chip and I feel it is well worth publishing again.

JUST FOR TODAY

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| <i>Just for today,</i> | I will live thru the next 12 hours and not tackle my whole life problem at once. |
| <i>Just for today,</i> | I will improve my mind. I will learn something that requires effort, thought and concentration. |
| <i>Just for today,</i> | I will be agreeable. I will look my best, speak in a well modulated voice, be courteous and considerate. |
| <i>Just for today,</i> | I will not find fault with friend, relative or colleague. I will not try to change or Improve anyone but myself. |
| <i>Just for today,</i> | I will have a program, I might not follow it exactly, but I will have it. I will save myself from two enemies-hurry and indecision. |
| <i>Just for today,</i> | I will exercise my character in three ways, I will do a good turn and keep it a secret. If anyone finds out, it won't count. |
| <i>Just for today,</i> | I will be unafraid. Especially will I be unafraid to enjoy what is beautiful and believe that as I give to the world, the world will give to me. |

—Author Unknown

A peek into your congregation.

Jon Langhout Jr.

I was born in Fall River Mills, CA on July 30, 1964. We moved to Bemidji where I grew up and went to school.

I graduated in 1982 from Bemidji High School and went on to Bemidji State where I graduated with a BS in Business Administration.

I worked as a Marketing Director and COO at Midwest Cable from 1991 to 2000.

I married Suzy Christianson. We have 2 children and 1 granddaughter with a grandson on the way.

I love to teach teachers how to "teach" dance. I also record family history, ancestry and stories.

What you don't know about me is I own over 100,000 baseball cards.

Suzy Langhout

I was born Suzy Christianson in Bemidji on November 3, 1966.

I went to school in Bemidji and Blackduck. Blackduck for my elementary years and Bemidji for my high school years where I graduated from high school in 1985. I went on to Bemidji State University and graduated with a BS in Health and a BA in German. I married Jon Langhout Jr and we have two daughters Tia and Tyra. I have one granddaughter with a grandson on the way. I love to dance, cook, entertain, play games and travel.

Something you might not know about me is We have traveled to 49 out of 50 states and around 15 other countries.



Challenges

Life without challenges
Isn't worth much,
To this, I will agree.
Always being put to the test;
With answers
Never given freely,

To answer the questions,
A challenge
As old as time.
Never reaching the answer;
Never to figure out
The rhyme.

The days go by too quickly,
As the months
Change to years.
Life remains a challenge,
As our youth begins to disappear.

Challenges remain ahead,
This we know
To be true.
Searching for
A place to begin;
A life filled
With challenges.

A poem written by our own Terri Lea
Murray

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 12/31/2022**Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00**

Total Income	\$ 12,416.39
Total Expenses	\$ 15,006.96
Net Income	\$ (2,590.57)

Thank you for supporting our church**Sunday Worship Attendance
2023**

January 1	24
January 8	25
January 15	25
January 22	17
January 29	18

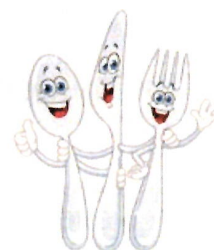


3	Terri Murray
6	Palmer Berg
7	Duane Hayes
14	Donna Dickinson

**"YOU YOURSELF, AS
MUCH AS ANYBODY IN
THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE,
DESERVE YOUR LOVE
AND AFFECTION"
– BUDDHA**

February Head Usher: Libby Underhill

	Liturgist	Greeter
February 5	Donna Enfield	Ken Paulson
February 12	Linda Wagner	
February 19	Betty Hanson-Lehman	Gini Sande
February 26	Ruth Andersen	Barb McGregor

Supper Club**5:30, Feb. 16 at****The Pizza Ranch*****Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, February 16 at 5:30pm*****Please call Dianne Roholt directly at 444-2859 for your reservations!****This is an evening full of joy, laughter and good food.****All are welcome!**

First Presbyterian Church APPROVED: 1-17-23
Bemidji, MN
December 20, 2022

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Conference Room on December 20, 2022, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Donna Dickinson, Cheryl Hiltz, Linnea Mostad Terri Murray, and Gloria Phelps.

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - MSP to approve

MEETING MINUTES - MSP to approve the minutes from the November Session meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Christmas card and donation from Marlene Zech
- Thank you from Hope House for the use of the church's fellowship hall for their Thanksgiving Dinner

CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report - December 20, 2022

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Deaths: 1 – Grace Privratsky

New Members: None

Return to Active Membership: None

Request Transfer of Membership: None

Removed from Membership Roll: 0

Communion: December 4, 2022: 30 served

Membership as of December 20, 2022: 67

Sunday Worship Attendance:

November 20th: 35 November 27th: 37 December 4th: 30 December 11th: 25 December 18th: 30

FINANCIAL REPORT - Finances from November were reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Administration/Personnel** Chairperson: Donna Dickinson; Discussion was held regarding the hiring of an Office Administrator temp
- **Buildings & Grounds** Chairperson: Terri Murray; The water heater was replaced. There is now hot water throughout the building. Waiting for a part so that a pump can be repaired; floors in the fellowship hall will be waxed over the holiday break; there is a noticeable difference in less spiders and cobwebs since pest control treatment.
- **Finance & Stewardship** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; Letters have been sent to those who have yet to pledge for 2023. Cheryl will begin working on the 2023 budget.
- **Adult & Christian Education** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; Seekers will end the 2022 class on 12-21-22. A new class will begin in February.
- **Outreach** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad reported that First Presbyterians will serve at the Bemidji Food Shelf the 4th Friday in December. Meals on Wheels will be delivered the fourth week of January. January's 4th Sunday benevolence will be Village of Hope.

- **Worship & Music** Chairperson: Gloria Phelps; The Bell Choir is looking to start up again. Our organist, Joan, has agreed to direct. The Worship Committee is in need of members.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Computer Committee:** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; no report
- **Kitchen Fellowship Committee:** Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz; no report
- **Nominating Committee:** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; The committee will be meeting soon to fill three vacancies on Session.

NEW BUSINESS

- A kitchen service list for 2023 was presented and discussed.
- The annual meeting will be Sunday, January 29, 2023, following the service.

Next Meeting: January 17, 2023, at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

MSP to adjourn with prayer at 2:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Underhill
Clerk of Session




SEEKERS ARE BACK

Seekers will resume on February 22nd and will run for 12 sessions. They will meet in the conference room at 12:00pm. The title of this session is "Who is the Holy Spirit". Come and join the lively discussions and learn more about the Holy Spirit.

Sundays
10:00 am
Worship
11:00am
Fellowship



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30-Calvary Chapel	2	3	4
5 Pastor Chip Communion fellowship	6 7pm-Scouts	7	8 6:30-Calvary Chapel	9	10	11
← Pastor Chip gone →						
12 Duane Geisler	13 7pm-Scouts	14	15 6:30-Calvary Chapel	16 6:00-Supper Club @ The Pizza Ranch	17	18
← Pastor Chip gone →						
19 Bill Beyer	20 7pm-Scouts	21 1pm-Session Meeting	22 ASH WED. 12pm Seekers 4:00PM-ASH WED SERVICE 6:30-Calvary	23	24	25
26 Pastor Chip	27 7pm-Scouts	28				



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