



APRIL



Chip's Chatter

Sometimes, we get great insight from unlikely sources. We hear an expression on T.V. or in a movie and it causes us to think not about the dialogue, but rather about something beyond what the writer probably intended. In my life, a line from a movie helped me put into perspective a very important aspect of relationships: "Completing someone" versus "Complimenting another's life." An odd source for such a deep subject.

Such is the case during this COVID pandemic. I am a member of the Civil Air Patrol and last week I received an e-mail from the Minnesota Wing Commander whose message was profound and worth sharing. Col Garlough writes:

"As we are faced with an unprecedented crisis, let's remember our training and our mandate to be of service. Let's be the island of calm in the sea of uncertainty. A lot of people are scared and panicked right now and the rumor mill is running rampant. There is a lot we cannot control; the virus, other people, the time it will take to get back to normal, the stocks of paper towels at Wal-Mart. What we can control is how we react and what we do. Let's look for ways to be of service, even in small ways. Here's some examples:

Call your elderly and shut-neighbors. If they need groceries, or their dog walked, or the

lawn mowed or snow removed, we, as individual people, may be able to be of service.

If somebody needs just to chat a bit, to have some contact with other humans, be there for them. From all reports, you can still interact outdoors with a five foot separation and your risk will be virtually zero. Now's a good time to renew those 'over the fence' conversations with your neighbors – at a safe distance of course. When you do talk to other people, talk about the weather, kids, pets, airplanes, Civil Air Patrol, gardens, knitting, cars, spaceships, etc., so people will not focus entirely on the virus or politics."

Col Garlough, without probably realizing it, has set a perfect mandate for places of worship and in particular, our congregation. Note in the second line, "Let's be the island of calm in the sea of uncertainty." This is a perfect reason why we need to attend church. This is why we worship. This is why we need consistency in our worship service. All of which leads us to calm, peace, serenity, and comfort.

In the middle of this unprecedented crisis, many people are looking for reasons as to "why" this is occurring. Dr. Tony Evans, a pastor whom I greatly admire, delivered a sermon to his vacant church in which he declares sometimes God allows things to happen. Why? Because He is talk-

ing to us and wants to get our attention. As we learned in our Seekers Group, the social scientists of today have created a culture of confusion in our midst. We are moving into an era of “post Christian” America. There are no longer absolute truths. The scripture is constantly being re-interpreted to fit the social scientist’s agenda. I will let the reader decide if this is a call for us to return to our God and faith.

Dr. Charles Stanley writes in his book “How to Handle Adversity”:

“The source of our adversity is not be our primary concern. Think about it. What was the source of the adversity Christ face? Sin, Satan, or God? Actually, all three were involved. Yet Christ’s response allowed our heavenly Father to take this tragedy and use it for the greatest good. That is the pattern. That is God’s goal for us through all the adversities of life.

Have you been so hung up on trying to figure out why adversity has come your way that perhaps you have missed God? Has the adversity in your life strengthened your faith, or has it weakened your faith? Adversity is a reality that none of us can avoid. Therefore, it is in your best interest to begin responding in such a way that the negative can be used to accomplish the will of God in your life. And as you begin responding correctly, perhaps you will begin to understand why!”

In all these quotes, it becomes readily apparent that our response to the crisis of today affects how we navigate our way through it. Do we run in fear? When we do so, are we running away from what God is trying to teach us? When we panic, do we fail to remind ourselves that God is in complete control? Do we run from our faith instead of finding time to be alone with God? Do we consider coming into our sanctuary at

church to find peace, comfort, and re-assurance? I believe the last thing we should ever do is let fear make our decisions.

Pastor Greg Laurie, from California, makes this great observation: “Viral fear is worse than the coronavirus.” Think about it. Remember fear is a tool of the enemy of our soul. This virus, this difficult time, is NOT more powerful than God. Let’s use this time to draw closer to God in our faith, keeping in touch with our members, practicing “church” in our individual homes. I always recommend reading the Psalms for comfort. How you do it is really not as important as setting some time aside to be alone with God. Light a candle and pray. Then rest comfortably in the loving arms of Jesus.

As your pastor, I have decided to come to the office every day and am available to talk, pray, and even lead you through a short worship service. Remember Matthew 18:20:

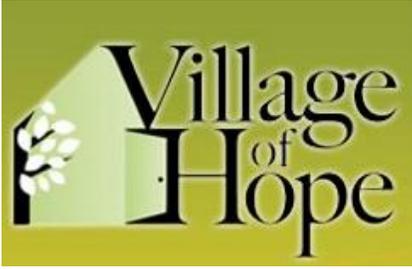
²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.+ Jesus is here, with us now, as we go through these difficult times. The best response is to turn our eyes toward Jesus. As the song says: (Turn your eyes upon Jesus+ Alan Jackson)

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face.
And the things of earth will grow strangely
dim,
In the light of His glory and Grace.*

****In regard to our Palm Sunday and Easter Services, they are pending. You will be notified by email or by telephone about the final decisions.**

Please watch your emails if you have one.

“Make the Change” Benevolence 2020



For the months of February, March, and April, the change that is collected will go towards Village of Hope in Bemidji. The mission of Village of Hope is to promote self worth and independence through the provision of temporary shelter and supportive services for families experiencing homelessness. Village of Hope is more than a place for a family to lay their heads or grab a meal.

It is a place to plan for the future.

Help build the future for local family who is experiencing homelessness by donating your spare change for the next three months to the fish bowl in the narthex. The extra coins you might find lying around under couch cushions, in coat pockets, and in desk drawers ó can be used to make big changes in our community.

<https://www.villageofhopebemidji.org/index.html>



**THERE WILL BE NO SUPPER CLUB
FOR THE MONTH OF
APRIL.
DETAILS WILL FOLLOW ABOUT MAY.**



FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 2-29-20	
Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00	
Total Income	\$ 6,013.07
Total Expenses	\$ 9,820.91
Net Income	\$-3,807.84
Thank you for supporting our church	

Sunday Worship Attendance Report	
Feb 23	37
March 1	39
March 8	36
March 15	37

All churches are experiencing financial difficulties during this Covid19 crisis and as a reminder we would like for you to mail us your weekly pledges.

Head Usher—

Greeter

Liturgists:

April 5

On hold until further notice

April: Communion Set Up: Joe Forbes & Joan Forbes
Serving/helping with clean-up: Duane & Mary Hayes, Donna Dickinson, Barb McGregor, Cheryl Hiltz

April Service Chair: Joan Forbes		
Duane & Mary Hayes 218-694-2290	Brenda Miller	766-3053
Bob Naylor 444-7398	Brenda Reed	751-2630
Dianne Roholt 444-2859	Ray Hamblin/Donna Enfield	444-9002

April Birthdays



- 1 Richard Miller
- 10 Gloria Aylesworth
- 19 Ruth Andersen
- 20 Joan Forbes
- 21 Cheryl Hiltz
- 24 Vera Weis
- 27 Norma Feay



April Benevolence

One Great Hour of Sharing

presbyterianmission.org/oghs

Our 4th Sunday benevolence for April will be One Great Hour of Sharing. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. One Great Hour of Sharing, received during the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

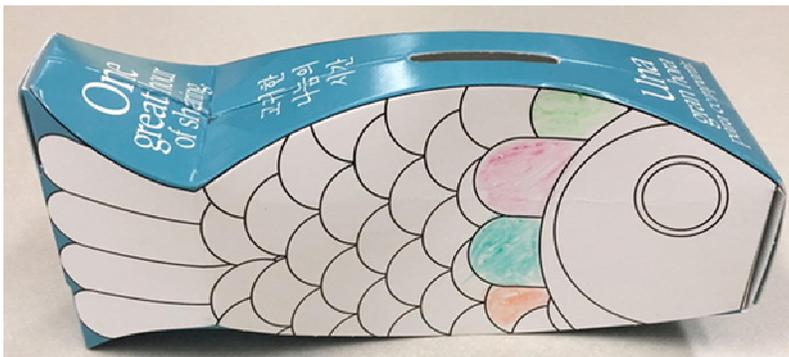
Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters
 Receives 32% of funds raised

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed
 Receives 36% of funds raised

Self-Development of People (SDOP)

Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills
 Receives 32% of funds raised



Look for the fish banks in the back of the sanctuary for a fun way to support this mission. The bank would be a great place for all that loose change you might have. You can even color your fish! Please bring all banks to the church by **Sunday, April 26th**.



Our super Meals on Wheels crew.

Joe and Joan Forbes,
Betty Hanson-Lehman,
Mark Robertson, Linnea and Mike Mostad

**First Presbyterian Church
Bemidji, MN
March 17, 2020**

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church conference room on March 17 at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened prayer by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Palmer Berg, Cheryl Hiltz, Libby Underhill

ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Gloria Phelps, Donna Dickinson, Linnea Mostad

OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk of Session Mary Hayes, Joan Forbes

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA MSP to approved agenda as amended - Additional Other Item: Organ Lessons

MEETING MINUTES The minutes from the February session meeting were **approved**.

CORRESPONDENCE Email message from Steve Saari.

CLERK'S REPORT was reviewed.

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report March 17, 2019

Weddings: none

Baptisms: none

Deaths: none

New Members: none

Return to Active Membership: none

Request Transfer of Membership: none

Removed from Membership Roll: none

Communion: Feb. 26, Ash Wednesday - 20 served. Serving by Intinction: Duane Hayes
March 1- 39 served Serving: Dixie Wirkus, Brenda Miller, Linnea Mostad,

Betty Hanson-Lehman, Gini Sande

Membership as of March 17, 2020 74

Sunday Worship Attendance Feb. 23 - 37, Mar. 1 - 39, Mar. 8 - 36, Mar. 15 - 37

FINANCIAL REPORT The financial report was distributed and reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson: Donna Dickinson No report.

Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Palmer Berg Spring roof repairs await. Baseboard heater repair in progress.

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Funds from the Endowment Money Market account have been used to cover expenses.

Adult & Christian Education Chairperson: Linnea Mostad Sunday School small chairs have been obtained.

Outreach Chairperson: Libby Underhill No report.

Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria Phelps No report.

Computer Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz Software has been purchased and will be installed soon.

Kitchen Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Reminder: Lifeline Screening will be held on April 20 8:00-5:30

NFLX has gotten speakers in the Fireside Room operational. They will return a bid on cry room speakers and two speakers in the kitchen.

ACH accounts can be set up by church members that would provide automatic transfer of their pledge from their bank account to the church. Members can also make donations via credit card through the church website.

Scouts of America has filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Chip discussed this with Scout Leader Greg Roberts.

The Worship Committee is asked to take the following motion under consideration: **MSP** for First Presbyterian to support Accompanist Stacy Crystal's organ lessons for 12 weeks, one lesson per week, for up to \$40 per lesson.

Coronavirus/COVID 19 First Presbyterian will remain open for worship with protective modifications – ask church goers who don't feel well to stay home, hand sanitizer at the entry, no hand shaking/passing of the peace, frequent sanitation of public surfaces, ask worshippers to use social distancing, collection plate at the top of the stairs, no communion served in April, no fellowship hour for March 22, 29 and April 3. This plan may be reassessed as developments occur. Session will be called into emergency meeting if changes are deemed necessary.

Next Meeting: April 21 at 1:00 pm. in church conference room. Chip will moderate.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer led by Pastor Chip at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

Sundays

10:00 Worship
Service

11:00 Fellowship

April 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12pm Lent Service	2	3	4
5 Chip Holt Preaching Palm Sunday	6	7	8 6:00-PEO 6:30 Calvary	9	10	11
12 Chip Holt Preaching Easter	13	14	15 6:30 Calvary	16 Supper Club cancelled for April	17	18
19 Chip Holt Preaching	20 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Scouts	21 **1pm- Session Meeting	22 6:30 Calvary	23	24	25 Wedding
26 Tony Peffer Preaching	27 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00-Scouts	28	29 6:30 Calvary	30		