

First Church News

Volume 12 issue 4

April 2023

Chip's Chatter



I was thinking about people who suffer from bi-polar disorder. This condition is characterized by extreme mood swings from “high-euphoria like” to “low-depression like”. All of us experience changes in our mood throughout the day/week/month. Most of us have a “range” from high to low and stay inside that range. However, when we continually exceed our normal range frequently or for long extended periods of time, it might be time to seek a professional health care provider.

These thoughts came to me as I was reflecting on what it might have been like in Jesus’ time during what we call Holy Week. The people were beginning to see Jesus as the Messiah. Though some may still doubt, the crowds who heard his words and listened to his teaching, many came to realize Jesus as the Messiah. But what kind of a Messiah? The people had long been expecting a Messiah who was a mighty warrior who would come and restore the Jews to a position of power in the land and to crush their enemies. Imagine the confusion when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem riding on a donkey on what we call “Palm Sunday.”

The people were elated to see Jesus and their hopes and expectations were at an all-time “high.” The days that followed were probably bewildering to the people. They were anxious to see Jesus take some sort of action. Instead he was arrested and taken into custody. Put on trial in what we might call a “kangaroo

court” today. He was beaten, scourged, and humiliated. Then, in an ultimate act, taken to the cross and crucified. Then came the devastating “low” of Jesus’ death. The crowds were experiencing a manifestation of what we might label, bi-polar. Then at their lowest point came the resurrection of Easter morning. What a “high” that must have been for those who knew and loved Jesus first hand.

Jesus death on the cross and his resurrection are the ultimate acts of love by the Father. You see, God did this to reconcile each and every one of us to bring us back to him, our Creator.

We have the benefit of knowing about Easter. So, we use the period of Lent to recall our own sin and needs for a savior. We begin Holy Week with Palm Sunday and proceed through the Passion until Easter morning. Even for us, there are periods of times of “highs” and “lows” as we prepare for Easter.

Our Sunday morning services loosely follow this same pattern of “Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.” We always begin our service with a call to worship and a gathering hymn. The hymn and music chosen helps set the stage for the beginning of worship; like the joyful celebration of Palm Sunday. We transition through confession, receive reassurance from our scripture readings, and our teachings of Jesus. The crowds during Holy Week were probably doing similar things as they awaited Jesus’ actions.

Following our sermon, we transition to a “down” time of prayers and intercessions, and ask God for help in our lives. Next comes our expression of thanksgiving for what God has done and is doing in our lives. We conclude our worship with a sending hymn, another joyful hymn to remind us of Easter morning.

The simple fact is this: Our Sunday morning service is actually a repeat of an Easter morning type of celebration and it is this attitude we need to bring to church and share with all whom we come in contact. Just as the crowds continued in the joy of realizing Jesus was alive, we need to carry our joy into our daily living and our activities of life.

In both my home and my office I have two crosses; a Crucifix and an “empty” cross. For me, they are highly symbolic. Every time I look deeply at the Crucifix, I can’t help but think of the pain and suffering Jesus went through. He went through it for not only me, but for all of us. I sometimes I think of Him looking down at me from the Cross and saying “I am doing this for you, Chip, give all your sin to Me.” I also think of others who feel the same way and can image Jesus using their own names and speaking directly to them. I am also reminded of why this had to be done. It is then I think of taking my own guilt, shame, and sin and placing it at the foot of the Cross. I can confidently let it go knowing I am forgiven and can look forward to that glorious day when we see Jesus face to face.

The “empty” Cross is a reminder that Jesus is alive. As it is written in 1 Corinthians 15:51-57:

‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’

⁵⁵ ***‘Where, O death, is your victory?***

Where, O death, is your sting?’

⁵⁶ ***The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*** ⁵⁷ ***But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

The “empty” cross represents to me, the Risen Christ.

Some people ask why are there two “crosses”? I like to think they are two sides of a coin. The coin is the infinite love of the Father and his desire to bring us into reconciliation with him. The Crucifix side represents the Passion and Good Friday of the story. The empty cross side is the resurrected Jesus and our victory over death and sin. It is the Easter side of the coin.

As you celebrate Easter this and every year, feel the joy of Palm Sunday but also allow yourself to feel the darkness of Good Friday. Easter morning imagine waking up with a note attached to your pillow that reads, “Dear (N). As of this morning your sin debt to me is marked **‘PAID IN FULL.’** Sincerely, God.”

Now, that’s the real joy of Easter.

Chip



The Scouts will be having their annual breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 2 from 8am until 2am. It's an "All You Can Eat". Adults \$10; Children 6-12, \$6 and kids under 6 are free.



SEEKER

SEEKERS ARE MEETING

Seekers began 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.

New Salem Lutheran Church

Rummage & Bake Sale

All proceeds benefit community charities

Saturday, April 15

8AM—2 PM

Bargain Sale 1 pm



New Salem Lutheran Church

7491 Island View Drive NE

Located just 10 miles North of Bemidji on Hwy. 71 in Turtle River

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 2/28/2023**Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00**

Total Income	\$ 4,221.01
Total Expenses	\$ 11,207.29
Net Income	\$ (6986.28)

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

March 5	31
March 12	Church cancelled
March 19	
March 26	



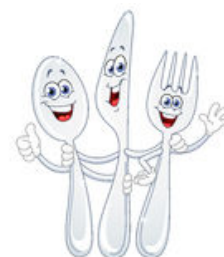
1 Richard Miller
 10 Gloria Aylesworth
 19 Ruth Andersen
 20 Joan Forbes
 20 Betty Hanson-Lehman
 21 Cheryl Hiltz
 24 Vera Weis
 27 Norma Feay

**April Head Usher: Terri Murray****Liturgist**

April 2	Libby Underhill
April 9	Mary Hayes
April 16	Donna Enfield
April 23	Betty Hanson-Lehman
April 30	Ruth Anderson

Greeter

Linnea Mostad
 Bev Novak
 Gini Sande
 Ken Paulson
 Carla Erickson

April Kitchen: Libby Underhill helpers: Jenny Miller, Mary Lou Miller, Brenda Strowbridge**Supper Club****5:30, at****Call Dianne or Gini*****Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, April 20 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!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/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)

****Our congregation's money will be designated to aid refugees from Ukraine.**

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)

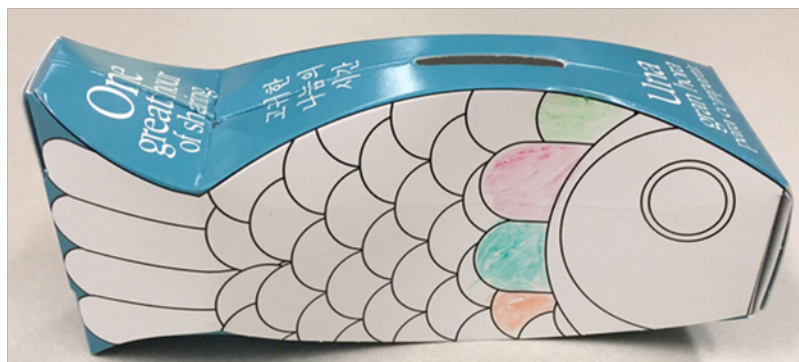
Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed

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 23**

Your session at work

First Presbyterian Church

APPROVED: 3-21-23

Bemidji, MN

February 21, 2023

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Conference Room on February 21, 2023, at 1:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator, Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:

Cheryl Hiltz, Linnea Mostad, Terri Murray, and Bev Novak.

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - MSP to approve

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you note from the Bemidji Food Shelf

Letter from 1st Premiere Bank regarding Ron Kettle

CLERK'S REPORT

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report - February 21, 2023

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Deaths: None

New Members: None

Return to Active Membership: None

Request Transfer of Membership: None

Removed from Membership Roll: 0

Communion: February 5, 2023: 23 served

Membership as of February 21, 2023: 66

Sunday Worship Attendance:

January 22nd: 17	January 29th: 24	February 5th: 23	February 12th: 26	February 19th: 31
------------------	------------------	------------------	-------------------	-------------------

FINANCIAL REPORT - Finances from January were reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration/Personnel Chairperson: Bev Novak; no report

Buildings & Grounds Chairperson: Terri Murray; no report

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; Aldrich Fund is in need of a 2nd trustee; Raymond James Account is in need of 2 additional authorization personnel; the church is not renewing their contract with Waste Management – looking to go with Jon's Refuse Solutions.

Adult & Christian Education Chairperson: Linnea Mostad; Seekers will resume February 22nd -topic: "Who is the Holy Spirit?"

Outreach Chairperson: Linnea Mostad reported that First Presbyterians served at the Bemidji Food Shelf the 4th Friday in January

Worship & Music Chairperson: Gloria Phelps; Ash Wednesday service will be at 4pm on February 22nd. Lenten Services will be held each Wednesday starting March 1st at 1:15 in the chapel.

OTHER BUSINESS

Computer Committee: Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz; no report

Kitchen Fellowship Committee: Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz; no report

NEW BUSINESS

The clerk presented the annual statistical report for 2022. **MSP** Discussion was held on renting a

Sunday School room for office space. **MSP**

Discussion was held on hosting "Youth Works" during June. This would involve 30-60 high school students staying overnights in the church. The Session moved to decline this invitation.

Bill Beck's funeral will be held at the church on Tuesday, May 23rd at 10:00am.

Ordination for Elder Bev Novak will be Sunday, March 12th.

MSP to adjourn with prayer at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Underhill
Clerk of Session

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 21, at 1:00 pm.
in the conference room. Chip will moderate.



**To Mend a Broken Wing by
Terri Lea Murray**

Soaring proudly
Guided by God's true Hand;
Wing's outstretched,
To protect an aging land.
Flying for freedom
With the wind on her wings;
A flight of hope...
A King among Kings.

In a sky of blue,
With a glorious morning sun;
A wing is wrongfully broken,
The terror has begun
Down she falls

A prayer of hope begins;
A heart of a nation
Torn in two

Landing safely
A pain felt by all;
Time to mend,
A prayer said by all.
Above the smoke the unheard cries;
Time to rebuild...
Time again to fly.

Soaring proudly
Guided by God's true Hand;
A fate of a nation...
Together we all stand

Sundays
10:00 am
Worship
11:00am
Fellowship



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Palm Sunday Pastor Chip Communion/ Pancakes with Scouts	3 Monday of Holy Week 7pm-Scouts	4 Tuesday of Holy Week	5 Wednesday of Holy Week 12pm-Seekers 6:30-Calvary Chapel	6 Maundy Thurs 7pm Service	7 Good Friday	8
9 Easter Pastor Chip	10	11	12 12pm-Seekers 6:30-Calvary Chapel	13	14	15
16 Pastor Chip Pot Luck	17	18 1pm Session Mtg	19 12pm-Seekers 6:30-Calvary Chapel	20 5:30-Supper Club 5:30—PEO	21	22
23 Pastor Chip	24	25	26 12pm-Seekers 6:30-Calvary	27	28	29
30 Pulpit Supply						



First Presbyterian Church,
501 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji, MN 56601
218-444-5016
Email: presbji@paulbunyan.net
Website: Firstpresbji.com