

## Chip's Chatter



The other day I was visiting with one of our members. The member had observed people getting angrier much quicker today than prior to COVID 19. I began to think about the comment and I began to think people are reacting to the reopening of "life". I wondered if this surge in anger might be a result of the over one year confinement/control we experienced during the pandemic. Many of us felt as if we had lost some control over our lives. The anger being expressed is a way to recover some control. Here I must make a disclaimer: I am not a therapist, psychiatrics, mental health care professional. I can only make comments up to my level of experience.

Some of us confined ourselves to a greater extent than others. Still, while we were enduring the separation from friends and family, we had a taste of isolation and also a taste of losing control over a large portion of our lives. Our religious liberties were trampled upon. Our abilities to conduct business and travel were greatly curtailed. And the list could go on.

When we are confined to a small space and lose control, we can always expect anger to surface as we attempt to recover a little control. The same phenomena occurs with the flying public. When you go to the airport to catch a flight, you must first pass through the TSA security checkpoint. The TSA has total control over you. Next, if the experience with TSA was not good, travelers bring stress and anger to the gate and the gate agents. Boarding begins with packed flights. More loss of control. You must go when and where they tell you. Now, you enter a cramped tube with seats close together. Everyone is scrambling to get their carry-ons into the compartments above their seats. By this time, the stress builds even

more.

Even though COVID is starting to pass, there is an increasing outbreaks anger related issues on flights. Airlines have no choice but to land and deal with the offending passengers on the ground. I read a couple of days ago, an American Airlines flight had to land short of its destination. Why? Because passengers refused to follow the mask mandate issued by the government. Even flight crews are being assaulted in the air! A recent radio report said there had been over 3,500 incidents this past year!

I reflected even more and remembered an interesting Hollywood movie made some years ago. It was entitled "A Blast from the Past" and was released in 1999 and starred Christopher Walken. The movie was set in 1962 during the Cold War. Christopher Walken portrayed an engineer/scientist that took the recommendations of the time and built a bomb shelter under his home. It was very elaborate and could sustain life for at least 35 years. Most of us that grew up in that era remember "Duck and Cover", Civil Defense Shelters, and plans for personal family bomb shelters. In the movie, Christopher Walken's character believed nuclear war was inevitable at any moment. As luck would have it, he and his expectant wife went down into this massive bomb shelter. A plane crashed on their house and because the shelter was directly under it, they felt the impact of the crash. Thinking the war had started, they locked all the doors with a timer lock set to open in 35 years. The locks prevented them from going out into a world filled with radiation.

While underground, their child was born. They raised the child and found the only entertainment they could; listening to old "I Love Lucy" and "The Honeymooners" episodes. The family was totally isolated. There was no TV news or radio. They listened to Perry Como and Dean Martin music albums. In other words, they completely retrained their 1962 culture. The story goes on and the timers unlock. They eventually venture outside only to find their neighborhood was now a ghetto. Now the family is confronted with how to deal in a 1997 world with 1962 culture and values. It makes for an interesting screen play.

So, what is my point? In "Blast from the Past," they emerged from their confinement maintaining their same values they had prior to going to the bomb shelter. They had not been influenced by the outside world and stayed true to their beliefs.

Our confinement last year was radically different from the story line of "Blast From the Past" .. First, we could, if we chose to, go out but only under tight restrictions. Gatherings for most of the time were prohibited. But, we had the 24/7 bombardment of news from the numerous news outlets. Seems as if most news always dealt with the ever expanding pandemic and the danger it was supposed to bring to life. We were, to a certain degree, unable to control aspects of our lives. The media did a great job of instilling fear in us, much as the Cold War period did. Now, back to my point. Could it be the types of behavior we are seeing is actually a reaction to the confinement of the pandemic? If this is so, how do we deal with it not only in ourselves, but also in dealing with others? I think we can deal with it in a couple of ways. First, just like in "Blast from the Past," we have certain "values" that existed before COVID. In our church's case, prior to COVID, we were seeing an increase in attendance, including frequent visitors. We were occasionally seeing young people and managed to hold a few Sunday school classes. Why? Because we all loved coming to our church, worshipping with our friends and neighbors, and reaching out to guests and community. We showed the love of Christ to all

neighbors, and reaching out to guests and community. We showed the love of Christ to all who entered. We followed a teaching of St. Benedict: "All guests are to be welcomed as Christ."

This is how we deal with it in our own lives. We must remember we are to represent Christ in all we do and say in the world. We are to be His body and carry out our mission to bring others to a relationship with Christ. We must do it sincerely and warmly to everyone, not just our friends and family.

How to deal with the stress we see in orders. We must remember those who choose to be angry may or may not have a reason. We have no idea what is happening in their lives nor how they coped with COVID. We must not analyze their situation but rather, listen respectfully and non-judgmentally. When you listen with respect, you don't have to agree. Just listen. St. Benedict also says we are to "listen with the ear of our hearts." Once again, the love of Christ is shown by cheerfully listening and not rising to the stress others are facing.

So, as we emerge from our "bomb shelters" of last year, we need to remember we still have those beliefs and values we had a year ago. We can demonstrate Christ's love in our actions and our interactions with others. And, I would also suggest, we not listen so intently to the TV news. Maybe, instead, we should listen to the music of Perry Como or Dean Martin or watch re-runs of Andy Griffith or other favorite sitcoms from the past. Or, better yet, find a radio station that plays Christian music, watch good television speakers on the Day Star Channel. I think you get the point. Hope about taking 20 minutes in the morning to reflect on God's word. It is the best breakfast you will ever experience. It is the antidote to stopping anger in ourselves and dealing with it in others.

By the way, does anyone know where I can find old Three Stooges movies?

Blessings,  
Chip

# Your session

## Things you didn't know.

### **Donna Dickinson, Admin**

I was born in Fergus Falls, MN and when I was 1 my father died leaving my mom with 4 children to care for. She later married a man from Deer Horn township. I went through 8 years at a country school, and then went to a different high school every year. When I was a Junior in high school my mom passed away and I went to live with my aunt in Walker which is where I graduated from high school. I worked at a clothing store after I graduated and saved money until I could go to Bemidji State Teachers College (as it was known back then). I studied Business Administration. I met my husband Dick at First Presbyterian Church and we were both singing in the choir. We were married in 1954. I have 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren. I worked at the Dickinson Real Estate from 1978 until I was 84 yrs old. Dick passed away in 2013.

One thing you may not know about me is I loved waterskiing and was part of the waterski club. We did shows and we formed a pyramid. I was on the top and Dick and Rev. Tom Smatla were on the bottom. We would go to Devils Lake, ND and do shows there. Their lake came back after being dry for many years, but when it did come back it was like pea soup, but that is what we skied in. Very interesting??

### **Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session**

I was born and raised in St. Paul in the home my grandparents built in the Midway area. I'm the youngest of four siblings. We were members of Knox Presbyterian Church which my great grandfather helped establish. I have fond memories of lots of church activities and delightful people there. After graduating from Hamline University with a degree in psychology and elementary education, I got my first teaching job at Horace May in Bemidji and met husband Duane. We were married at First Presbyterian which we later joined in 1983 and have three children and now 13 grandchildren.

Ten years ago I retired from teaching after 35 fun, exciting and challenging years. We live in the original house on the century farm that Duane's grandfather homesteaded. We raise buffalo and hay, garden, battle weeds, and enjoy our corner of the world immensely. I have spent many happy hours compiling family history and plan to someday write and publish it to pass along.

### **Libby Underhill, Outreach**

I grew up in Freeport, Illinois – home of the Freeport Pretzels! I wanted to attend college at Bemidji State University – mainly because my mom and dad honeymooned in Bemidji, but my mom thought it was too far away. Instead I attended the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, majoring in Elementary Education. Little did I know that Bemidji would later become my home!

My first teaching job was in Mason City, Iowa, where I taught 1st grade for 4 years. During this time, I took a ski trip to Bozeman, Montana, over a spring break. I fell in love with the area; moved to Bozeman at the end of the school year. I was able to get a part-time job teaching in a one-room schoolhouse. It was a unique experience as we had 13 students in grades 1-8. I was everything from classroom teacher to PE teacher to custodian! As much as I loved Bozeman, it was difficult to make a living there. I reached out to my college's placement center and started to receive teaching openings. One was for Bemidji! What a small world! The rest is history. I taught for 31 years in the Bemidji school district. During this time, I taught 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and technology. In 2015 I retired from teaching and now work at Lueken's on a part-time basis. Church is very important to me. I'll never forget how welcoming First Presbyterian Church was when I moved to Bemidji.

### **Judy Damp, Recruiter of Greeters/Liturgists**

I was born and baptized in Bemidji. In 1958 Morris and I were married by Rev.Smatla at First Presbyterian Church. During WWII my parents moved us to California where I attended Sunday School in the community social building, no denomination. We returned to Minnesota following the war.

I attended Central School from 2-4<sup>th</sup> grade, when we moved to the Lincoln School area. I graduated from Bemidji High School and the next day started working for a local dentist as an office-trained dental assistant. That winter I started part-time classes at BSTC. The following fall I left my job and headed for the U of M to attend the Dental Hygiene Program.

Following graduation, I worked for 10 years, 8 of those part time, as a Dental Hygienist in the Mpls area. When our second daughter started school I went back to the U of MN and worked toward my degree in Education.

I applied for teaching positions in smaller communities, one of them in Bemidji. The dentist I had worked for was on the school board. Bemidji was expanding the Technical College building to include some new programs. He knew my background and said he would contact me to see if I was interested in starting the new Dental Assistant Program at the Tech. He did and I was. We returned to Bemidji.

We have two daughters, one living in Bemidji and the other in Australia, We have been blessed with 5 grandchildren and 6 great grands.

**FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending 5-31-2021**

**Monthly requirement to meet our budget \$10,705.00**

Total Income	\$ 13,380.45
Total Expenses	\$ 9,332.64
Net Income	\$ 4,047.81

**Thank you** for supporting our church

**Sunday Worship Attendance**

June 27-25
July 4-32
July 11-27
July 18-38



9	Judy Damp	23	Gloria Phelps
12	Mary Hayes		
17	Lois Hill		
20	Marlin Kimmes		
22	Gini Sande		



**Summer Office Hours**

Tue, Wed, Thurs. 10am—2pm  
Monday and Friday by appointment only

**Head Usher Libby Underhill**

August 1
August 8
August 15
August 22
August 29

**Liturgist**

Laurie Nordquist
Peter Nordquist
Ruth Andersen
Betty Hanson-Lehman
Dianne Roholt

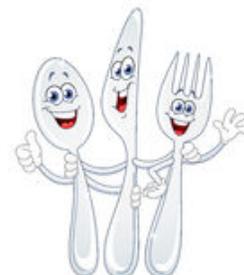
**Greeter**

Linnea Mostad
Donna Dickinson
Kathy Burger
Brenda Strowbridge
Gini Sande



**Supper Club**

**Rutgers**  
**7598 Bemidji Rd NE**



**Supper Club will be meeting on Thursday, August 19 at 5:30**

Please sign up at the church office: by email [presbji@paulbunyan.net](mailto:presbji@paulbunyan.net)—or—by phone; 444-5016 or call Dianne Roholt at 444-2859

This is an evening full of joy, laughter and good food.

**All are welcome!**



## BEMIDJI HOPE HOUSE

### MISSION:

Provide community support services to people with serious and persistent mental illness so they can live in the community in the least restrictive setting, function at their best level, and reduce the need for involuntary hospitalization.

### SERVICES:

Community Support Program

Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services, Skills, training and intervention.

Medication Education, monitoring and management.

Day time drop in Center.

24 Hour access thru a Crises Line

Diagnosis Assessments

Individual Counseling

Consumers Speaker's Program

Goal Fund

Loan Fund

REACH Group for Family and Friends

Outreach and Education to the Public

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES:** Address is 2014 7th St. SE, Bemidji, MN; Phone 218-444-6748; Web site is: [hopehousebemidji.org](http://hopehousebemidji.org)

It's been my honor and privilege to lead Bemidji Community Food Shelf for the past seven and a half years. I will retire from BCFS this fall. I am so grateful to everyone who helped to make this such a wonderful experience for me. I am excited for the future of the Food Shelf!

Mary Mitchell

Outgoing BCFS Executive Director

**HELP HER CELEBRATE**

**Saturday Sept 25**  
**3-7 pm**

Belle Thalia Creative Arts Space (A&C Belleveau)  
 24011 MN 89 Puposky  
 (14.8 miles N of Bemidji)

Bring a dish to share,  
 your beverage and a chair

Live Music by the  
**OCCASIONALS!**

This should be interesting for you to see. These are all the churches in the Presbytery of Northern Waters and the numbers from their churches.

Presbytery of Northern Waters  
Church List

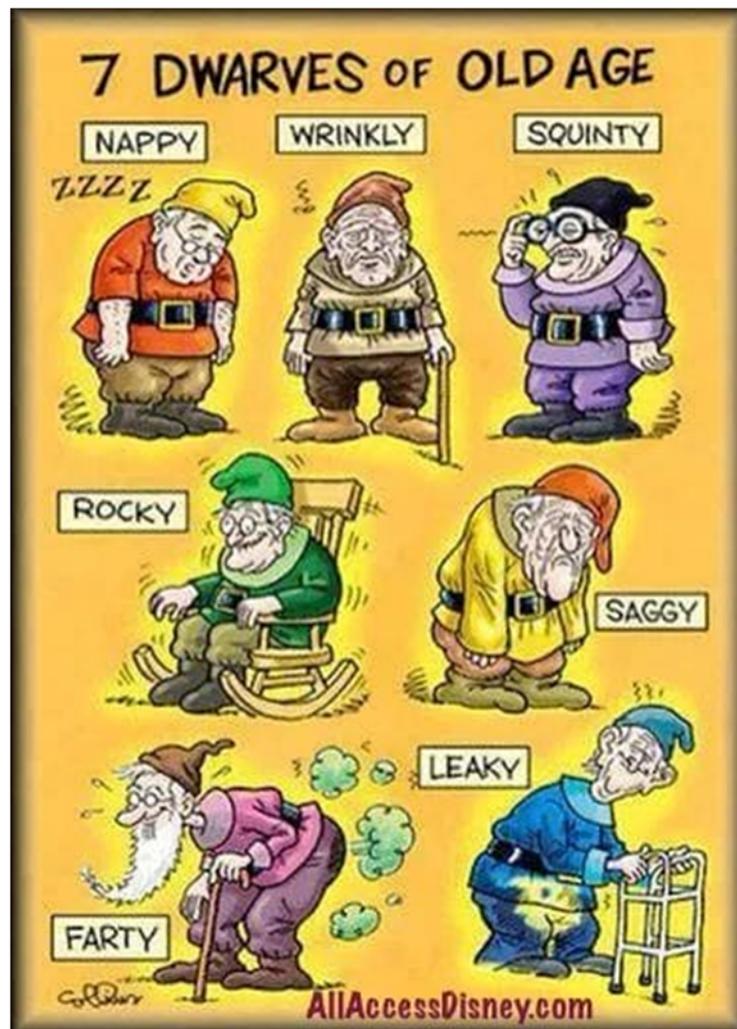
Church	Membership 12/31/20
Ashland Presby Congregational	* 177
Woodland Presbyterian Church	* 32
Bayfield Presbyterian Church	75
First Presbyterian Church	69
Bowstring Chapel Presbyterian Church	* 17
First Presbyterian Church	* 43
First Presbyterian Church	* 76
Lawron Presbyterian Church	54
Brule Presbyterian Church	52
Community Presbyterian Church	35
River's Edge Church	42
First Presbyterian Church	96
Presbyterian Church of Cloquet	28
First Presbyterian Church	52
First Presbyterian Church	19
First Presbyterian Church	58
Glen Avon Presbyterian Church	398
Lakeside Presbyterian Church	275
Pike Lake Presbyterian Church	17
Westminster Presbyterian Church	50
First Presbyterian Church	* 145
North Presbyterian Church	* 21
First Presbyterian Church	58
St Croix Presbyterian Church	* 62
Community Presbyterian Church	378
New Hope Presbyterian Church	* 30
First Presbyterian Church	* 48
First Presbyterian Church	* 29
First Presbyterian Church	* 15
Congregation of Good Shepherd	20
Community Presbyterian Church	* 78
Lake Nebagamon Presbyterian Church	* 16
Manitowish Waters Presbyterian Church	214
Calvary Presbyterian Church	* 13
Round Lake Presbyterian Church	* 18
Trinity Episcopal Presbyterian Church	* 18
First Presbyterian Church	* 45
United Presbyterian Church	* 160
United Protestant Church	* 30
Country Peace Presbyterian Church	44
United Presbyterian Church	206
Tamarack Presbyterian Church	13
St James Presbyterian Church	36
United Church of Two Harbors	61
Hope Community Presbyterian Church	129
Wahkon Presbyterian Church	76
First United Presbyterian Church	15
Winter Presbyterian Church	12

3,655

What would you like to see in your newsletter?



Those of you that are thinking about bringing flowers for our church service, please contact Gloria at 308-1113. We appreciate you. Many thanks.



AllAccessDisney.com

## First Presbyterian Church

Bemidji, MN

July 20, 2021

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church fellowship hall on June 15 at 1:05 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

**ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:** Libby Underhill, Cheryl Hiltz, Donna Dickinson, Gloria Phelps

**ELDERS ABSENT:** Palmer Berg, Linnea Mostad

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Clerk of Session Mary Hayes

### QUORUM DECLARED

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** MSP approved to adopt the agenda.

**MEETING MINUTES** MSP to approve the minutes from the June session meeting.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Pastor Chip requesting study leave July 26-30. **MSP to approve.**

Letter from Administrative Assistant Shirlee requesting August 3 off. **MSP to approve.**

Letter of notice from city of street construction. Wiring to church marquee was broken by crew.

Letter of notice from Chamber of Commerce that diagonal parking on Minnesota Avenue is being explored.

Letter asking for a web link to a law firm working with age discrimination was rejected without vote.

Letter from Associate Member Marlene Zech notifying us that she will be unable to attend in the future.

**CLERK'S REPORT** was reviewed.

**First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report July 20, 2021**

**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: July 4:** 32 served

**Membership as of July 20, 2021: 70**  
**Sunday Worship Attendance June 20- 28; June 27-25; July 4-32; July 11-27; July 18-38**

**FINANCIAL REPORT** Finances from May and June were reviewed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Administration/Personnel** Chairperson: Donna Dickinson No report

**Buildings & Grounds** Chairperson: Palmer Berg No report.

**Finance & Stewardship** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz No report

**Adult & Christian Education** Chairperson: Linnea Mostad No report.

**Outreach** Chairperson: Libby Underhill No report

**Worship & Music** Chairperson: Gloria Phelps Parame-  
ment order has not yet been filled. **Recommendation:** to approve the final draft of Wedding and Funeral Forms for inclusion in the MOO. **Approved.**

**Computer** Chairperson: Cheryl Hiltz No report Update by Chip-two new gas stoves are installed in kitchen. A work table for between them will be made by Ray Hamblin. A dishwasher leak is being fixed.

**Kitchen** Session Contact Person: Cheryl Hiltz No report.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Chip and Cheryl will investigate public transportation options for those who are unable to drive to worship.

**Next Meeting:** August 17, 2021 at 1:00 pm. in the conference room. Chip will moderate.

**MSP and approved** to adjourn with prayer led by Pastor Chip at 2:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session

**Sundays**  
**10:00 am**  
**Worship**  
**11:00am**  
**Fellowship**

# August



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Chip Communion Fellowship	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Chip	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Chip Fellowship	16	17 1pm-Session Meeting	18	19 1pm—PEO 5:30-Supper Club	20	21
22 Chip	23	24	25	26	27 First Pres @ Food Shelf	28
29 Bill Beyer	30	31				