

First Church News

VOLUMN 7 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2018



The word "AUGUST" is displayed in large, white, three-dimensional letters. Each letter has a small hole at the top and a string attached, giving it a hanging effect. The letters are set against a solid orange background.

Dear Friends in Christ,

The summer is passing quickly! Local retailers are now selling “back to school” items and it won’t be long before school buses once again dot the streets. Summer is typically a time of rest, leisure, and vacations. I can assure you our church and Session have done just the opposite! This summer, the Session has focused on updating and improving our sanctuary and buildings to provide a safe place to gather and worship. We have already repaired the air conditioner in the sanctuary, added new fire extinguishers and signs, and are currently evaluating needs/requirements for improved emergency exit signage and the re-opening of a door that has been boarded up for some time.

We expressed a need in July and the response was incredible. Without a custodian, the building was beginning to show a need for cleaning. Thanks to the response of 10 volunteers, the building was literally cleaned from top to bottom. The kitchen, in particular, needed specific attention. Thanks to the many who helped put our facility back into “tip top” shape!

Some great ways to help attract visitors to our wonderful church are coming into focus. Beginning in September, we will embark on having each Sunday of the month be an “emphasis” Sunday. This will enable us to all focus on the purpose of worship and help introduce people to who we are.

Emphasis Sundays

The first Sunday of each month will be called “Reconnection Sunday”. This day will continue to mark the observance of the Lord’s Supper. We will use this day to reconnect with the waters of our Baptism as well as the remembering the meaning of communion. The service will be structured around this idea. Don’t be surprised if you see the Baptismal Font in plain sight to help us remember the importance and significance of our Baptism.

The second Sunday of the month will be called “Invitation Sunday”. For this Sunday, I will challenge all of us to invite someone new to join us for worship. We should contact friends and those who may no longer worship with us and have not yet found a church home. All members of First Presbyterian will be expected to wear name tags. The service will be designed to be an enthusiastic time of worship. Don’t be shocked if we sing a song or two from the Praise Book from years gone by. The service will

always remain balanced between the great hymns of the faith and some good old fashioned familiar tunes. Likewise, our gathering music will use both the organ and piano when possible. I hope people will come early just to listen to the music!

The third Sunday of the month will be called öPlanting Seeds Sundayö. This Sunday we call or follow up on those whom we invited the previous week. Again, the service will be crafted so as to continue the balance in musical selections and traditional works. We will work hard to get guests to join us for Fellowship following our service.

The fourth Sunday of the month will remain our öBenevolent Sundayö where we place emphasis on the groups we help sponsor and provide ministry. This is a good time to think about Out Reach through these ministries.

When there is a fifth Sunday, we will borrow a phrase from other churches. This Sunday will be our öYea God Sundayö. We will celebrate what the Lord is doing in our lives, our church and our community. Don't worry, no one will be required to give a personal testimony. (I would never turn it down should someone choose to do so.)

Adult Education

Thanks to your feedback, the Worship Committee has identified Sundays, before church as our time for adult education. I have found two individuals who are willing to help with this important ministry. The time selected by the Worship/Administration Committee is from 9:00 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. Sunday mornings. All that remains is to identify the curriculum. Our stated goal is to first provide a refresher on our Presbyterian Confirmation and to help determine who we are both as Presbyterians and our role in the Bemidji area.

Watch for the official start date coming in the fall.

Other News

Our church will be the location of the Community Remembrance Service coming in December. I have been asked, once again, to be the main speaker as a result of the ministry of Grief Share. The service is sponsored by the two funeral homes in Bemidji and the Sanford Hospice group.

The weekly church musician concerts held in the summer will be returning to our church. We will need to find musicians interested in providing a musical performance. It's not too early to start looking for musicians.

Promise Keepers, the amazing men's ministry from the 1990s and early 2000s is in the process of restarting. There has never been a greater need to help men become better fathers and husbands and to bring ethics into the work place. The ministry covers all ages ranging from youth to seasoned citizens. As more information becomes available, I will keep you informed. My dream is for First Presbyterian to be the focal point for all churches in Bemidji to gather and study öThe Seven Promises of a Promise Keeperö. I would like to see us take the lead a charter a bus for men to go and participant in the upcoming stadium conference in 2020. Final details on the conference are still pending. The work of Promise Keepers in the early days resulted in a spiritual revival throughout our nation.

If anyone wishes to hear my interview on öYour Q-FMö radio, please see me as I have a copy of the broadcast interview.

As you can see, lots of things are happening. Please keep your Session and all the wonderful committee members and volunteers in your prayers. While we all may have differing ideas, we can and we must come together firmly committed to the goal of advancing the Kingdom for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Hoping your August is peaceful and restful. Chip

From the Church Office



3	Joyce Hardt	3	Loren Kimmes	9	Judy Damp
12	Mary Hayes	17	Lois Hill	20	Marlin Kimmes
22	Gini Sande	23	Betty Faver	23	Gloria Phelps

August Service Chair: **Joe Rossi**

Bill Beck	586-2770	Joe & Joan Forbes	751-3965
Linnea Mostad	751-8327	Dona Mae Naylor	751-5466
Bob & Nancy Weber	751-5328	Vera Weis	751-2595

Communion in July:

Set-up: Joan Forbes, Vera Weis

Serving/helping with clean up: Dixie Wirkus, LeRoy Hill, Brenda Biller, Linnea Mostad, Bill Beck

Communion in August:

Set-up: Joan Forbes, Vera Weis

Serving/helping with clean up: Cheryl Hiltz, Barb McGregor, Libby Underhill, Donna Dickinson, Gloria Phelps

Head Usher:

	Ushers:	Greeter	Liturgists:
August 5			Gloria Phelps
August 12			
August 19		Gini Sande	
August 26		Vera Weis	



Supper Club
Rutgers Birchmont Lodge
5:30
August 17



Supper Club will be meeting Friday August 17, at 5:30. Please sign up at the church office: by email; presbji@paulbunyan.net –or– by phone; 444-5016, on or before Wednesday, August 15.

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

From the Church Office

FINANCIAL REPORT—Month Ending June 30, 2018

Total Income	\$15,184.23
Total Expenses	\$12,485.84
Net Income	\$ 2,410.63
Memorial Fund	\$17,208.01
Endowment Fund	\$66,276.38
	Communion Served—42



IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO REMEMBER

If you have items for the **Newsletter**, Please call or email the office by **Thursday, August 23rd for the September Newsletter.**

 **Bulletin** items need to be into the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday you wish it to appear. Because of the summer hours, this is firm as the bulletin gets printed on Thursday morning.

To avoid confusion, please send information for the bulletin and newsletter to the church office via email at presbj@paulbunyan.net. If you don't have email, call the office at 444-5016 or stop by the office during office hours, Monday—Friday, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

The office will have summer hours beginning the week of June 3rd. Monday through Thursday, 10:00am—2:00pm. We will be back on regular hours beginning the first week of September

We are Looking for a custodian for our church. If you know of anyone interested, please let the office know. This person could be a college student, or could be a retiree looking for something to occupy a few hours. Hours are flexible.



The Benevolence for August goes to the 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 Individual Counseling

Consumers Speaker's Program

Goal Fund

Loan Fund

REACH Group for Family and Friends

Outreach and Education to the Public

ACTIVITIES: A monthly Newsletter is provided listing the activities.. Such as Outings, Rummage Sales, Picnic, Tours, Pontoon Rides, Dances, Guitar with Caleb and meetings.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES:

Address is 2014 7th St. SE, Bemidji, MN

Phone 218-444-6748 Phone 218-444-6748

Web site is hopehousebemidji.org

Pastoral Care

If you or someone you know is in the hospital, please give the church a call and let us know. Because of the privacy laws now in place, pastors can no longer have access to files. We'll be glad to visit you. If you've been ill at home and would like to talk with a pastor, let us know that also. Pastor Chip is available for home visits. If you would like communion brought to you, let us know. If you'd like to talk over some personal issues or seek pastoral help, let us know. We invite you to communicate your needs to us and we'll do what we can to help. Call the office at 444-5016.



We are available spiritual lift for who is ill or just friends. Call the church office at 444-5016 or Libby Underhill at 444-9774.

Prayer Chain

to all members who need a themselves or for a loved one needs the prayers of his or her

Pastor Chip's hours will be:

Monday—Thursday, 10:00am to 2:00pm

Other times by appointment

To reach Chip after hours, call 444-5016 and press 1 when prompted. It will call his cell phone.

First Presbyterian Church

Bemidji, MN

July 17, 2018

The monthly stated meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the church conference room on July 17, 2018 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was opened with prayer and a devotional reading from "Bread for the Journey" by Henri Nouwar by Moderator Pastor Chip Holt.

ELDERS PRESENT CONSTITUTING A QUORUM: Duane Hayes, Bill Beck, Donna Dickinson, Bob Weber, Cheryl Hiltz

ELDERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Leroy Hill

OTHERS PRESENT: Clerk of Session Mary Hayes

QUORUM DECLARED

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MEETING MINUTES The minutes from the June 12 session meeting were accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE Chip shared a note of thanks from Zach's family for his Eagle Scout Ceremony.

CLERK'S REPORT was accepted.

First Presbyterian Church, Bemidji, MN, Clerk's Report July 17, 2018

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 1 Served: Set Up: Bob & Nancy Weber Servers: Dixie Wirkus, LeRoy Hill, Brenda Miller, Linnea Mostad, Bill Beck

Membership as of July 17, 2018: 109

FINANCIAL REPORT The financial report was reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chip reviewed the polity of the church regarding committee structure. Committees meet, discuss, and designate the gathering of more information on topics. If a need/concern is identified/brought up by an individual, it should be brought to the appropriate committee to begin this process.

Administration/Worship

Recommendation for session: Purchase an additional 5 fire extinguishers and signs. There was no objection to proceeding.

Recommendation for session: Get two more standardized quotes for implementing and installing exit signs that meet current codes. The consensus was to postpone action on this recommendation until after the next inspection. Individual background research on the topic may continue.

A community Sanford Memorial Service will be held at First Presbyterian in December.

An interview with Chip aired on QFM radio.

Outreach

Contact people and dates of service were set up for Community Table, Libby Underhill Contact Person, service dates to be announced; Food Shelf, Linnea Mostad Contact Person, service 4th Wednesdays of the month; Meals on Wheels, Joe and Joan Forbes Contact Persons, service September 17-21 and December 3-7. Churches United midyear luncheon meeting is set for July 25.

CE/Nurture Supper Club will be the last Friday of July.

OTHER BUSINESS

The original signed document of First Presbyterian By Laws needs to be located. A copy is included in the Manual of Operations.

Chip will present session with material and a recap of a presentation from the last Presbytery meeting regarding dealing with shrinking congregations. It will be discussed at the August session meeting.

A church cleaning day by volunteers will be held on Thursday, July 19 at 9:00 am.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 21, 7:00 pm at church with Pastor Chip Holt moderating.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hayes, Clerk of Session



Sundays

10:00 Worship Service

11:00 Fellowship

August 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 6:30 pm Calvary Chapel	2	3	4
5 Chip Holt Preaching w/Communion	6	7	8 6:30 pm Calvary Chapel	9	10	11
12 Chip Holt preaching	13	14 9:00 am Admin Mtg.	15 6:30 pm Calvary Chapel	16	17 5:30-Supper Club-Rutgers	18
19 Rick Weinert preaching	20 6pm Boy Scouts	21 Senior Citizens Day 7pm Session Meeting	22 6:30 pm Calvary Chapel	23	24	25
26 Chip Holt preaching	27 6pm Boy Scouts	28	29 6:30 pm Calvary Chapel	30	31	